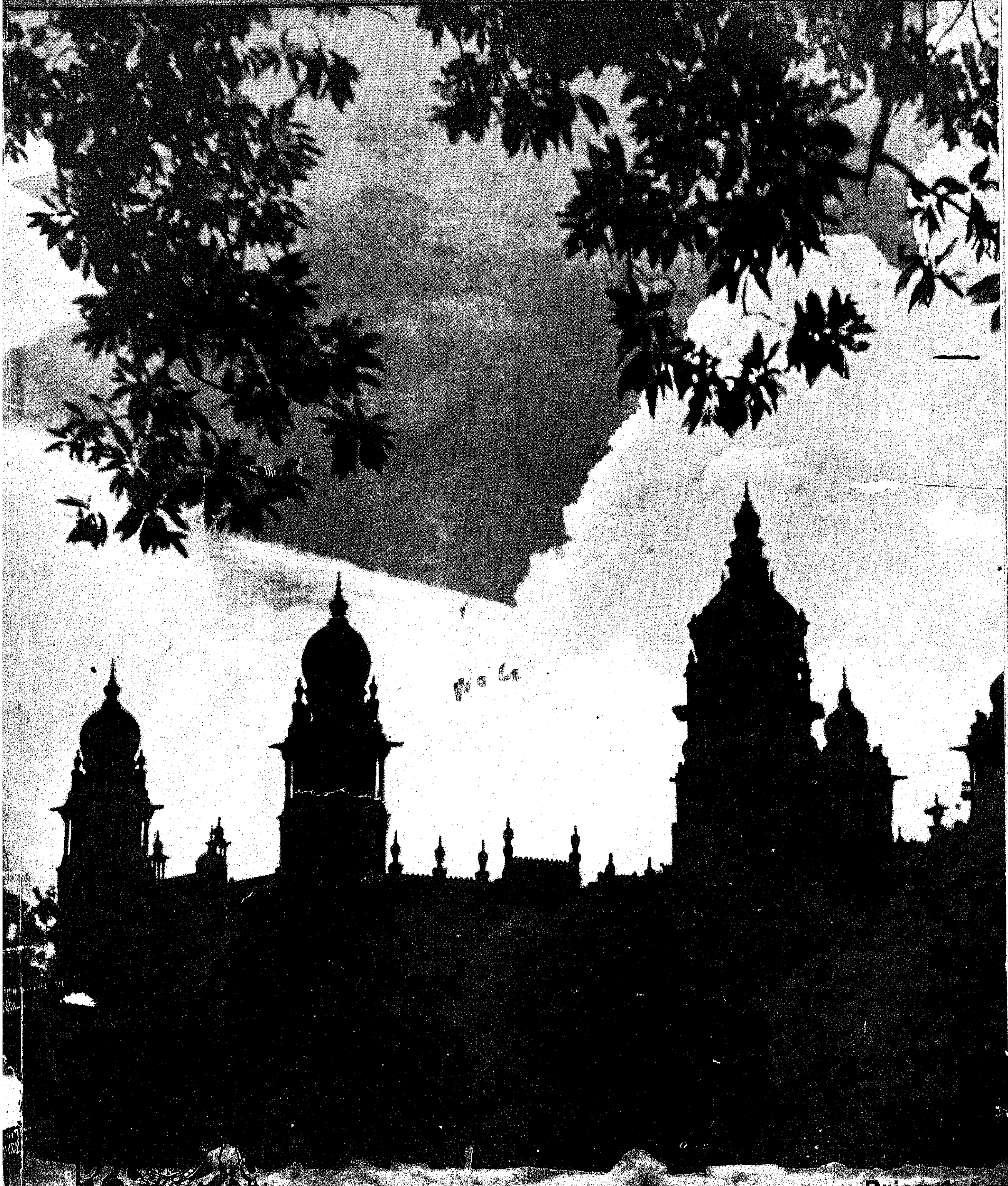
MADRAS INFORMATIO



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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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MADRAS INFORMATION

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VOL. I No. 4 | WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE | November 16, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Extension of Bonus for Kuruvai

Concessions announced by the Government in the beginning of this month in regard to bonus payable to cultivators of *kuruvai* paddy deserve the widest publicity as they are calculated to benefit a large section of the agricultural community. Representations having been received by Government that owing to scarcity of water in the rivers and canals in the Cauvery delta, the cultivation of *kuruvai* and other short-term crops was unavoidably delayed, and that the completion of the harvest was in consequence likely to be delayed, which would have meant that the bulk of the cultivators would become ineligible for the bonus if the time-limit is not extended, it has now been decided that producers of the short-term paddy who reap the crop before November 30 will also be eligible for the concessions subject to certain conditions. The most important of these is that the cultivators should give written intimation to the Taluk Supply Officer before November 16 of the quality and quantity of grains they propose to deliver before the end of the month and obtain a receipt therefor. This extension of the period for the grant of bonus for paddy delivered before November 30 should be welcomed by all those who for one reason or the other have not been able to sell their produce so far. Concrete evidence of appreciation on their part of the concession accorded can, however, be provided only when the produce that is delivered up is correspondingly considerable.

* * *

Restoration of Rice ration

Attention should also be drawn to the heartening statement issued by the hon. Sri. T. Prakasam, Prime Minister, in which the people of the province have been assured of a restoration of the rice ration to 10 oz. per head in December, provided the producers respond to what we may call the "call of the bonus concessions"—and deliver up their produce to the Government agency. If this hope is realised and if the internal stock position is buttressed up by additional allotments of rice to Madras from the Punjab, Central Provinces and Orissa surpluses that the Government of India have made, the restoration of the ration cut should become automatically practicable. So far, the response of the producers to the appeal for sale of paddy on the payment of bonuses has been magnificent, as the Premier's statement pointed out. The quantity of paddy and rice sold to the agents of the Government between 12-9-46 and 31-10-1946 amounted to 1,59,611 tons in terms of rice, and the present stocks have been estimated as representing the requirements of a little over six weeks. With further deliveries acting as a stabilising influence and with the prospects of the new rice crop coming into the market in the beginning of January, justification for the feeling of satisfaction with the position is strengthened.

* * *

Work of Village Committees

The food administration in the province has once again been commended in terms of high praise by the Hon. Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the Central Assembly, and H. E. the Governor of Madras in the course of his recent tour in Trichinopoly and Tirunelveli and South Arcot districts also paid similar tributes to his Government's efforts in that direction. Much hope is being built on the Village Committees which

have been, or are being, established throughout the presidency as agencies intended to promote expeditious procurement. In fact, there is great expectation that these committees will form a firm foundation for the superstructure of the provincial Food Administration and a really efficient foundation at that. The village, taluq and district food committees have a heavy responsibility thrown on their shoulders and if they discharge that responsibility without permitting local, sectional, communal or political feelings to interfere in their working they can be a very effective machinery for the administration of the food regulations, for satisfactory procurement of foodgrains, and in fact, for the efficient administration of all such village affairs which touch vitally the lives of the people, by the people themselves.

* * *

Amicable Communal Relation

It is a matter for gratification to all of us in this Presidency that while in some other provinces there have been blood-baths as a result of communal riotings, this province has been comparatively free from similar exhibitions of communal frenzy. It is a tribute alike to the restraining influence exerted by the leaders of the two communities as well as to the good sense of the masses at large. There have been a few regrettable plague spots even in Madras; but that those plague spots have not shown an inclination to deteriorate into festering sores is a matter on which the Government and the authorities on the one hand and the people on the other may congratulate themselves. Let us hope that the feelings of goodwill and harmony that generally prevail between the Muslims and Hindus in this presidency will persist and that whatever sores that may exist will gradually get healed up. Those who make a virtue of communalism in order to gain some ulterior purpose or to serve some ulterior end will be rendering a distinct and permanent disservice to the country and even to the community to which they belong and the interests of which they may fondly be thinking they are serving. There can be neither spiritual satisfaction nor any material gain to anyone by encouraging or aiding, consciously or unconsciously, among the masses a dangerous proneness to the breaking of heads and murderous assaults on fellow citizens because they happen to belong to some other religious persuasion than one's own.

Textile Policy

To supplement his statement of October 11 on Government's textile policy and to answer some of the subsequent criticisms of that policy, the hon'ble the Prime Minister has issued another statement. Two lines of criticism were answered by him, one that having regard to the actual progress made by the All-India Spinners' Association so far, there can be no room for optimism in regard to the success of the Government's Khadi scheme, and secondly, that Khadi cannot make any appreciable headway in the face of the prospective dumping of mill cloth by outside mills, taking advantage of the provisions of Section 207 of the Government of India Act of 1935. The fundamental point conveniently ignored by the critics is that whereas the A.I.S.A. has been obliged to perform the task of popularising Khadi for more than 25 years on its own initiative and responsibility and without much of official approbation, the Madras Government's Khadi scheme, which is the first large-scale Khadi programme initiated on the direct responsibility of a Government run by the representatives of the people, will be pursued "with all the vigour and drive which a Government administrative machinery can contribute." Its future potentialities under such favourable auspices cannot be made light of by disparaging references to erstwhile slow progress under a different auspices. As for the second point of criticism about possible dumping of mill cloth, in the first place such dumping is impracticable under conditions of all-India control of yarn and cloth distribution; and secondly, the contingency in which the provisions of Section 297 will become applicable, if at all, will arise only in the post-control period which may be only after three or four years. As the Premier hinted, the constitutional hurdle need not be regarded as insuperable, and "it is wrong to assume that the legislative changes necessary for giving adequate powers to the provinces for dealing with any situation anticipated in the post-control period will not be made in time." On the whole, the progress of Khadi development being on such an impressive scale as to contribute effectively to the promotion of textile self-sufficiency in the province in the course of a few years' time, need not be ruled out unceremoniously as the critics do nor need a gloomy view taken of the future. Statistics can be exploited for good as well as for bad purposes. But confidence and faith in the efficacy of a particular policy are the factors which make for real success in the long run.

MADRAS GOVERNMENT'S KHADI AND HANDLOOM INDUSTRY POLICY

(CRITICISMS ANSWERED)

(Contributed)

WITHOUT the Central Government committing themselves to opposition to it, the Council of State adopted a resolution recommending that the textile industry in India should be nationally controlled and directed. The resolution is obviously a direct sequel to the Madras Government's policy of "no expansion of textile mills" and encouragement of the Khadi industry. Mr. Yeatts, Secretary to the Industries Department, in the course of his speech, a summary of which appeared in the papers, without pronouncing any opinion on the merits of the Madras Government's policy, contented himself with pointing out that the policy had not yet been approved by the provincial legislature and that so far as the Government of India were concerned, it was their intention to have a common textile policy for the whole country. Mr. Yeatts did not think that a policy evolved after considerable discussion with the provinces and States would be given up; but he did not maintain or suggest that it could not be given up in any circumstances by any participating State or province. That is a technical detail and as the Hon'ble Prime Minister stated in his statement dated November 12, the matter will doubtless receive the earnest consideration of the Government when their views are invited by the Interim Government. As regards the policy not having received the provincial Legislature's imprimatur, no evidence has been adduced by any opponent of the policy to warrant the imputation that that body would not back up the Government in a policy which they adopted after due deliberation and in pursuance of a programme of integrated development of the Khadi industry with a view to its becoming an instrument for sartorial self-sufficiency in future. On the other hand there is every warrant for the opposite conclusion that the provincial Legislature would accord overwhelming support to the Government in the matter, in which the fundamental principle of provincial autonomy is involved. The Government of India, which are at present a national and popular Government at the same time may not feel inclined to impose their wishes, if at any time they are likely to be contrary to those of the provincial Government, in a matter like this which is within the jurisdiction of the provincial Government, nor assume powers to themselves, as recommended in the Council of State resolution, which may lead to unpleasantness with some at least of the provincial Governments, particularly as there is every likelihood of some other provinces also adopting Madras' lead in this respect. "A nationally-planned policy" in regard to textiles is a phrase which need not be regarded with alarm; such a policy may, in fact, be different from that which its advocates so vehemently demand it should be. It may be in the nature of a nationally-planned drive to develop the Khadi and the handloom industry, which is the quintessence of the Madras policy.

* * * *

No Danger to Handloom Industries

On the other hand, it is wrong to suggest, as has been suggested in the Council of State discussion, that there is an inherent and implied danger to the handloom industry by encouragement to Khadi, whereas the truth is that it is conceived primarily to assist the handloom weaver to procure enough yarn and remunerative occupation throughout the year by direct and systematic encouragement of the hand-spinning process. At the moment, the handloom weaver is between two stools and is unable to get sufficient quantities of either mill yarn or hand-spun yarn, and while there can be no prospect of his procuring a larger quantity of mill yarn so long as the present arrangements for yarn distribution continue and so long as the present mills are unable to augment their yarn-producing capacity, the development of hand-spinning on an extensive scale in some areas in the province and intensive scale in some others, which can be accomplished comparatively more efficiently and in less time under the direct auspices of the Government, is expected to satisfy his yarn requirements at a progressively increasing pace. While that section of the handloom weavers at present accustomed to using mill yarn may have to accustom themselves to the weaving of hand-spun yarn, which may entail a little inconvenience to them from the short range point of view, they will discover in the long run that the change-over is not only profitable economically but essential and useful otherwise. To raise the bogey of "handloom industry in

danger" and to attempt to depict that the Government's khadi policy is discriminating against the handloom weaver is, therefore, an attempt to demonstrate the undemonstrable. It was made perfectly clear by the Prime Minister in his statement to the press issued on the subject on October 11 that the interests of the handloom weavers would not in any way be allowed to be jeopardised.

* * * *

Lack of Ethics and Economics

But yet it has been one of the central points in the controversial tour de force of the sponsors of the Madras Provincial Textile Protection Conference held in Madras that the handloom weavers are among those who would be detrimentally affected by the Government's textile policy. The handloom industry, which has rightly been described as the "prince of cottage industries in India", does not stand to lose in any sense from the present policy, but on the other hand stands to gain a good deal. The handlooms produce even now more than two-thirds of the total quantity of cloth produced in the province, their production being 66½ crores of yards while the mills produce 30 crores and of this, according to the figure quoted by Mr. Muthia Mudaliar, who presided over the conference, exports to Ceylon alone during 1944 were 2½ crores of yards while exports to all other places amounted to 5½ crores of yards. Estimated at 25 yards per head the total consumption of cloth in Madras will be 122½ crores of yards per annum which means that the deficit will be 31½ crores of yards. It is curious that the oppositionists of the Khadi scheme are scrupulously silent on the ethics or lack of ethics, the economics or the lack of economics, of exporting 5½ crores yards of cloth every year to other countries when the extent of the local requirements of cloth to be filled up is so considerable. Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar estimated that if Khadi was worked successfully in all the 25 firkas selected for development, the quantity produced will be 15 million yards and if worked only in eight centres, it cannot be more than 5 million yards, and that it would still leave a gap of 31 crores yards to be made up in the totality of the province's requirements. Surely it cannot be suggested by anybody in one and the same breath that between 5 to 15 million yards of additional khadi will be woven by the handloom weavers from yarn spun in the development centres and at the same time that the interests of the handloom weavers are being ignored or sacrificed by the Government. If the mill cloth production by the existing mills is increased by making the mills work three shifts and by replacements of the machinery of the existing mills and if the intensive and extensive hand-spinning and khadi production drive is pursued with vigour under the direction and control of the Governmental agency, and if, superadded to this, the export of cloth produced by both mills and handlooms to places outside the province can be effectively checked by the levy of excise duties or by other legal processes, the deficit of 31 crores of yards in the cloth requirements of the Madras population, even if calculated at the rate of 25 yards per head, will be made up substantially. There has been no suggestion that in certain circumstances and if necessary, the Madras Legislature cannot invest the Government with requisite powers in this regard.

* * * *

Crocodile Tears

It is regrettable that the handloom industry has now been neglected and that the percentage of the output of the handlooms vis-a-vis the total demands for cloth has been stationary. For this depressing plight of the handloom weaver and the handloom industry the expansion of the textile weaving mills and not expansion of khadi has been responsible. As Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar has himself stated, while in 1920, when the mills numbered 253, the percentages of the contribution made by handloom cloth, Indian mill cloth and imported mill cloth, to the fulfilment of the cloth requirements were 29, 38 and 33 respectively, in 1945, with an increase in the number of mills to 417, the percentages are 29, 64 and 7 respectively, which means that while mill cloth had cut to some extent into imported cloth, its contribution to the advancement of the "prince among cottage industries" has been practically nil. It means also that while the mills were engaged in their competition with foreign imports and in unregulated internal competition among themselves and neglected the handloom weaving industry and starved it of essential yarn requirements, it was yarn produced by hand-spinning under the supervision and auspices of a non-official organisations like the All-Indian Spinners' Association that continuously fed the weaver and enabled him to survive and maintain his previous rate of production. It is a tribute to the staying power of the handloom weaver under extraordinarily depressing conditions and to the fact that the industry had struck such deep roots in the soil that it could not be exterminated even by the worst of adverse circumstances and not to the altruism of the mill-owners. They would probably not have shed a regretful tear if the handloom

(Continued on page 44.)

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

Local Board Elections

Issued on October 28

Requests are being received from persons convicted of political offences, for the removal of their alleged disqualification from standing for election to local boards and municipal councils. Under section 55 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and section 49 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, convictions for offences of a political character or those not involving moral delinquency will not operate as a disqualification. Only persons sentenced by a criminal court to transportation or to imprisonment for a period of more than six months for offences involving moral delinquency will be so disqualified, if the sentences have not been reversed subsequently or the offences pardoned. In such cases the sentences will operate as a disqualification, while they are being undergone and for five years from the date of their expiration.

Health Conditions of Province

Issued on October 28

On a review of the working of the Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act during 1945, Government make the following observations:—

The birth-rate which was decreasing every year since 1942 increased slightly from 29.39 in 1944 to 29.45 in 1945.

There was a fall in the death rate from 25.40 in 1944 to 22.27 in 1945. There was a distinct decrease in the number of deaths recorded under every cause except small-pox. There was also a marked decrease in the rate of infantile mortality from 192.4 in 1944 to 169.4 in 1945. The maternal mortality rate decreased slightly from 9.98 in 1944 to 9.29 in 1945.

Chief Diseases

Cholera: The number of deaths from cholera decreased from 18,318 in 1944 to 8,494 during 1945. The southern districts and the West Coast were practically free from cholera during the year.

Small-pox: There were 20,636 deaths from small-pox as compared with 19,776 deaths in 1944. The disease was prevalent in all the districts in the province; but as in the previous year, the districts greatly affected were Tanjore, Guntur, South Arcot, Malabar and Vizagapatam. The mortality rate from small-pox indicates the need for vigilent vaccination work in the affected districts.

Plague: The mortality from plague decreased from 1,738 in 1944 to 1,644 during 1945. The usual preventive measures of anti-plague inoculations and cyanegas fumigation were carried out. The Government have sanctioned a special scheme for the investigation and control of plague in the Nilgiris district. The experience gained in this district will be of great value for the eradication of plague in the Province. The plague research Unit at Hosur (Salem District) has been merged in this scheme.

Leprosy: Anti-leprosy campaign and special researches on the prevention and control of leprosy in the province were carried out by the Madras Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association which is generally in charge of the leprosy work in the Province. A rural scheme for leprosy control is under operation in Polambakkam area of Madurantakam taluk, Chingleput District.

Tuberculosis: There was an increase in the number of cases treated for tuberculosis (pulmonary and other tubercular diseases) from 79,619 in 1944 to 86,407 in 1945 in all medical institutions.

Fevers: The number of deaths from fevers was 3,01,178 in 1945 as compared with 3,44,315 in 1944.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea: There was a decrease in the number of deaths from this group of causes from 97,004 in 1944 to 78,160 in 1945.

Panchayats with a population of over 5000 and below 10,000 have been ordered to be included in the scope of rural water-supply scheme. The importance of provision of water-supply in the programme of rural reconstruction has also been impressed on Collectors of districts.

Other causes of death: The number of deaths under this head continued to be more than 50 per cent of the total mortality in the province.

Research

Special measures for the control of guinea-worm were in operation in the districts of West Godaveri, Anantapur, Bellary, Coimbatore and Cuddapah. Although the conversion of stop-wells into draw-wells is a permanent method of control of this disease, considerable reduction in guinea-worm incidence can be achieved by biological or chemical methods.

Malaria Control

The post-war reconstruction proposals relating to malaria have been implemented during the year. A bureau of malariology and mosquito borne diseases in charge of an Assistant Director of Public Health has been established and the anti-malarial organisation of the province has been reorganised. The province has been divided into four regions with a regional malariologist in charge of each. Each region has now a head-quarter Unit and two mobile field investigation and control Units. The Central Laboratory at Madras will form a training centre in malariology for Health Officers and others.

A separate First Class Health Officer and adequate subordinate staff have been sanctioned for control operations in the endemic villages of the Tungabhadra Project area. The anti-malaria scheme at Krishnadevipeta, the Araku valley, Chintapalle, Polavaram including sub-stations, the Krishnadevipeta extension scheme, the revised "A Sundaious" scheme in Vizagapatam District and the schemes in Pattukottai, Ennore, the Wynaad, Harur, Harur and Morappur, Uttangarai, Cuddapah Municipality and the Nellore Districts were continued during 1945. Schemes for investigation and control of malaria in Guntur and Anantapur Districts have been sanctioned during the year. The results of field trials as to the most economic and effective way of using D.D.T. in the control of rural malaria have been satisfactory so far.

The distribution of quinine and quinine substitutes was pushed on vigorously in the endemic areas during the year.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

The important bathing festivals of the Mahamakham of Kumbakonam and the Kistna Pushkaram, took place during 1945. Elaborate sanitary arrangements were made for the huge crowds of pilgrims who attended the festivals in spite of travel restrictions. The festivals passed off without any outbreak of epidemics.

HEALTH PROPAGANDA

As in previous years, health education formed one of the important duties of the staff of the Public Health Department. Lectures, talks, cinema shows, health dramas, health exhibitions and broadcast talks were arranged. Special attention was paid during the year to the improvement of environmental hygiene and soil sanitation.

POONAMALLEE HEALTH UNIT

The Unit was reorganised and expanded in 1945. It is now both field training centre for Public Health workers and an experimental station for the post-war reconstruction schemes for the expansion of the Public Health Services and for the improvement of conservancy and sanitation of rural areas.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Maternity and Child welfare work continued to progress during the year. Eight new centres were opened in 1945. A sum of Rs. 1,22,797 as compared with Rs. 1,04,150 in the previous year was sanctioned by Government as grants to local bodies for Maternity and Child welfare activities in 1944-45.

FOOD ADULTERATION

The Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act was extended to 24 more local areas bringing the total to 224. The percentage of adulterated samples increased from 41.8 in 1944 to 46.70 in 1945.

NUTRITION

Diet surveys in 189 families in urban, semi-urban and rural areas in Madras City, Bellary, Kurnool and Chingleput Districts were conducted during the year and no obvious prevalence of deficiency diseases was observed in any area.

VACCINATION

On account of the prevalence of small-pox in an epidemic form in the province, an intensive campaign of vaccination work was carried out and 11,971,755 vaccinations were performed during 1945. The number of vaccinations done in the year represents 23.2 per cent of the population of the province as compared to 14.1 per cent in 1944.

Though the war has ended, the difficult living conditions including general food shortage and abnormally high prices of consumer's articles continued to exist during the year. In order to cope with any sudden outbreaks of epidemics on account of these adverse conditions, District Epidemic Committees have been formed. The co-operation of the public is an indispensable pre-requisite for success in all measures designed to promote public health.

Price of Paddy and Millets

Issued on October 30

The Committee appointed by the Government to recommend the price of paddy and millets for the Kharif year has recommended to the Government that the price of paddy may be increased at least by Rupee One per maund of rice and by annas six per maund of millet, to meet the increased cost of production and the increase in the price of essential articles of life.

Representatives of Malabar and Mangalore on the Committee expressed the view that no increase was necessary for their area.

Low Wheat Stock

Issued on November 1

As a result of the fact that no supplies of wheat were allowed to this Province during October, the wheat stock position in Madras City is now very low. The next wheat ship is expected to arrive towards the end of the first week of November. It is probable that the present stocks in the City godowns and in the hands of the retailers would be sufficient to supply the needs of the ration cardsholders in full until that ship arrives. Nevertheless, to guard against unforeseen circumstances, and to conserve the small stocks of wheat now available, the Commissioner of Civil Supplies is instructing the retailers in the City to limit the daily issue of wheat to ration cardsholders to 2 oz. per adult, the balance of the non-rice portion of the ration being issued in the shape of wheat flour, maize, Egyptian millets or barley, according to availability.

Control Over Motor Cars

Issued on November 1

The Government have decided that it will be in the interest of the general public that control of the price and distribution of motor cars should continue for the present. In order to prevent abuse of the system it has also been decided that persons who have purchased a car under a permit should not be permitted to re-sell it without the permission of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller. This has been proved necessary as one or two cases have come to notice of persons obtaining a car under a permit, and shortly afterwards selling it at a much higher price.

Certain difficulties have been experienced both by the public and Motor dealers owing to certain defects in the rules for the issue of permits. A general complaint has been that permit holders who obtained a permit when only small cars were available, have not utilised their permits until bigger cars were received. This has resulted in others not being able to obtain a permit although cars were available. In future permits will be of three classes (1) For cars of from 8 to 10 H.P., (2) For cars over 10 but less than 20 H.P., (3) For cars over 20 H.P. Applicants will be requested to state which class or classes of car they will be prepared to purchase and permit will be issued accordingly. As the number of large cars available at present is comparatively small the public are advised that those who are prepared to buy a small car will have a better chance of obtaining a permit. Permits will not normally specify the make of car to be purchased, but the Provincial Motor Transport Controller will have power to do so in cerain cases. There are certain cars, generally

the more expensive ones, which permit holders are not willing to purchase. Persons who are willing to buy such cars may, in some cases, be able to obtain a permit for such a specified car rather sooner than they normally would according to their priority. All those who have been registered but have not yet received a permit, are requested to inform the Provincial Motor Transport Controller of what class of car they are prepared to buy. Permits will in future be valid only for a period of 14 days. An extension for a further seven days may be given for good reason. No further extension will be given under any circumstances, and any person who has been issued a permit and has allowed it to lapse *will in no circumstance* be issued a further permit. This provision is necessary as a number of cases have come to notice, where permit holders have waited long periods in order to obtain a particular car. This deprives other persons of a chance to obtain a car as a second permit cannot be issued while this permit is in force. It is considered that in such cases the person concerned cannot be so urgently in need of a car as to warrant his being continued on the list.

No permit will be required in future for cars costing more than Rs. 15,000. Rules to carry out these proposals are under issue. It is hoped that under the amended rules, many of the difficulties experienced by the public will disappear. As regards priority in the issue of permits, the Provincial Motor Transport Controller is acting under instructions from Government. The Public are earnestly requested not to attempt to interview him personally in respect of their applications.

Prices of Cane-Sugar and Jaggery

Issued on November 2

The Government have decided to fix the following minimum prices for cane delivered to the sugar factories mentioned below:—

1.	Nellikuppam	.. Rs.	33	per ton.
2.	Hospet	.. Rs.	34	„
3.	Vuyyuru	.. Rs.	33	„
4.	Thummapala	.. Rs.	34	„
5.	Samalkot	.. Rs.	35	„
6.	Podanur	.. Rs.	26	„
7.	Pugalur	.. Rs.	29	„
8.	Kirlampudi	.. Rs.	30	„
9.	Bobbili	....Rs.	34	„
10.	Seethanagaram	.. Rs.	34	„
11.	Etikoppaka	.. Rs.	34	„

The Government have also decided to fix jaggery prices at levels varying between Rs. 12 and Rs. 13-8-0 ex-wholesaler for the main producing districts. Wholesale and retail prices for all districts will be fixed and announced very soon. These prices are subject to the approval of the Government of India, which is being obtained. The Government have also decided not to impose any ban on the production of jaggery in the factory areas as was done in previous years. No such ban will be imposed during the current crushing season and any bans which are already in force will be repealed with immediate effect.

Agricultural Engineering

Issued on November 4

Both as a short term and long term measure, agricultural production has to be given a mechanical bias in order to save time, labour and cost, and for increased outputs. As a result of the launching of the accelerated well sinking and improvement schemes, a sudden demand arose for tools, equipment and plant from the agricultural population in the several districts. The demand was principally for implements, pumping machinery and mechanical tillage equipment. This type of special engineering aid which is required by ryots has been gradually growing from even before the war years and at the commencement of the year it was found that ryots' requirements in this direction could not be satisfactorily and quickly met unless the Agricultural Engineering Branch was properly organised.

SPECIAL SUPERVISION

With a view to effectively help agriculturists in respect of their requirements for well sinking, lift irrigation by pumping units, mechanical ploughing and small implements and tools, the Agricultural Engineering side was expanded by the employment of special supervisors at each district headquarters and a special technical staff at headquarters under a Deputy Director. From the time the special staff commenced to function till to date they have distributed over 720 small size built-in-type pump sets to ryots all over the Province for their well sinking operations and for emergency irrigation purposes. In addition to these gasoline units, nearly 50 crude oil engines of different sizes transferred from the Army surpluses have been allotted to ryots in the several districts for pumping installations. This special staff has also been arranging for the supplies of electric motor driven pump sets to ryots and over 750 motor pump sets have been issued to ryots during the last five months. Large quantities of pipes and pipe fittings costing 3 lakhs and 8 thousand (Rs. 3,08,000) have also been obtained from the Disposals Directorate and the Iron and Steel Controller and are sold at controlled prices to persons requiring them for their pumping installations. 2,582.35 tons of standard and 586.47 of non-standard iron and steel were distributed to agriculturists from the quotas allotted to the Agricultural Department for the second quarter of the year and an equal distribution is expected for the quarter ending with September. For the well sinking campaign 3,353 crowbars, 10,652 spades, 264 pans, 903 pickaxes were also supplied to owners who had undertaken to sink wells under the subsidised scheme. In the case of ryots owning oil engines, extra quotas of fuels were arranged for extending well irrigation and arrangements have also been made for procuring the necessary spare parts for their old engines.

TRACTORS AND BULLDOZERS

This special Agricultural Engineering staff is being actively engaged for the supply of more implements and machinery, oil engine and electric motor pump sets and tractor ploughing and bulldozing equipments for helping agriculturists. Bulldozing work has been taken up on a small scale in the districts of Chingleput, Coimbatore and Chittoor for levelling and laying out fields with bunds; and tractor ploughing operations on a limited scale are already in progress in the districts of Guntur, Vizagapatam, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Madura and Chittoor. More centres will be taken up as soon as the implements already ordered are received. During the last five months 1,722.81 acres were ploughed with the Agricultural Department tractors and these were mainly fields left fallow for the last two or three years or new areas not brought under the plough hitherto. Arrangements

have also been made for the direct purchase of more oil engines for distribution to ryots. The Agricultural Department has also made arrangements for obtaining oil engine pump sets and letting them out on hire to agriculturists at cheap rates. This will henceforth form a regular feature of the Agricultural Engineering activities of the Agricultural Department, and tractor ploughing activities are also proposed to be further expanded and extended to all the districts requiring them when the equipment under order is received.

Motor Bus Units

Issued on November 4

In a previous Government order, it was insisted that all motor bus units operating on the roads in the province must be fleet-owners, or in other words, that they must have 20 or more buses each. This G.O. was issued as a war-time measure to control motor transport units, and a time-limit had been fixed within which smaller units had to be amalgamated or get absorbed into fleet-owners on pain of their permits being cancelled. This principle of monopolistic fleet-owners operating on the roads has been found to be unsatisfactory from the standpoint of the public, and many small owners had had their licences cancelled and fresh enterprise in motor transport business was blocked.

The G.O. has now been cancelled, and Government have decided that any unit which could command three or more buses will be entitled to a permit, other conditions being satisfied.

An Ill-Founded Criticism

Issued on November 4

The attention of the Government of Madras has been drawn to the criticisms of certain groundnut oil interests that this Government entrusted the export of groundnut oil to Burma to Messrs. Ralli Bros., overlooking the claims of Indian merchants. Government wish to point out that there is no truth in these criticisms.

The Madras Government insisted that the Burma Government's agent must be sent here to purchase the oil and export it to Burma so that Burma may not have to complain afterwards about the quality and price of the article. It is the representative of the Burma Government who came here, who employed the services of Messrs. Ralli Bros., who are a recognised shipping firm, to purchase stocks from merchants here and export to Burma. It is thus clear that the Government of Madras have had no hand in the choice of Messrs. Ralli Bros., to represent the Government of Burma.

Elections to Local Bodies Postponed

Issued on November 6

The Government have under consideration legislation in order to amend the Local Boards and District Municipalities Acts and to invest local bodies with larger powers to administer their affairs. It has also been represented to the Government that, at present, the representation on these local bodies, provided for minority communities by way of reservation, is inadequate. The Government are considering proposals to increase the representation for such minority communities.

Complaints have also been received that the electoral lists published are incomplete and that the divisions of wards in municipalities and of circles in District Boards require revision.

It may also be mentioned here that when the Government decided sometime back to hold the elections and published a programme of dates therefor, it was hoped that by the time of the holding of the elections, a calm and peaceful atmosphere would prevail in the province. But it has been brought to the notice of the Government that recently the situation in the country is becoming more disturbed and there is reason to apprehend that the holding of elections and the election campaigns incidental thereto, might contribute to increase the tension and thereby worsen the situation in the province.

In view of the above circumstances, the Government have decided to postpone the elections to Municipal Councils and District Boards.

Basic Education Committee

Issued on November 7

The Government have appointed the following as the members of the Basic Education Committee. The Minister for Education will be the Chairman and the Deputy Director, Basic (Elementary) Education, the Secretary:

1. Secretary or Assistant Secretary, Hindusthani Talimi Sangh, as may be decided by the Secretary.
2. Sri G. Sitharama Sastri, Vinayashrama.
3. Sri L. Rajagopal Row, B.A., B.L., National College, Masulipatam.
4. Srimathi Vidya Devi, B.A., in charge of Basic Education Camp, Sithanagaram.
5. Sri K. Arunachalam, B.A., L.T., Headmaster, Government Basic Training School, Perianaickenpalayam.
6. Sri N. M. R. Subbaraman, M.L.A., Chokkikulam, Madura.
7. Miss Nanikutti Menon, B.Sc., L.T., Calicut.
8. Sri G. Venkatachalapathi, Secretary, Tamil Nad Basic Education Committee.
9. Mr. Abdul Kadir.
10. Mr. Hussain, M.L.A., South Kanara.
11. Mrs. Samuel, Headmistress, All Saints Training School, Trichinopoly.
12. Sri B. S. Murthy, Parliamentary Secretary to H.M. (I & L).
13. Sri Y. Natarajan, B.A., L.T., District Educational Officer, Calicut.
14. Sri G. Ramachandran
15. Sri H. Sitarama Reddy, M.L.A., Bellary.

Echo of Madura Black-Shirt Conference

Issued on November 7

On the 12th of May, 1946, there were serious disturbances in Madura in connection with the Dravidian Federation Conference held in that City, resulting in the opening of fire by the Police, and Government ordered a public enquiry into the origin and causes of disturbances and appointed the Collector of Ramnad to conduct the enquiry. The report of the results of the enquiry has since been received and examined by the Government.

In the course of the enquiry, the Collector examined a number of witnesses among whom were persons belonging to the "Black Shirt" Organisation and members of the public. He also examined some police officers.

The facts elicited by the enquiry are that on the 10th, 11th and 12th of May, batches of "Black Shirts" (Volunteers of the Dravidian Federation) entered the Sri Meenakshi Temple. Their only object appears to have been to wound the religious feelings and susceptibilities of the worshippers in the temples. This is clear from the fact that they were found smoking inside the temple precints and walking with their sandals on. It is even more strongly evidenced by their mocking at the sacred idols, using in the process obscene, insulting and provocative language which naturally led to altercations between the "Black Shirts" and the worshippers.

The "Black Shirts" however did not stop with the Meenakshi Temple. On the morning of the 12th batches of them stoned the Pilliar idol in the Vinayakar Koil and threw out idols. They indulged in similar desecration at the Mariamman temple. At the Sami Sannadi Street, where they also burnt down a hoisted Congress flag, they came into conflict with a crowd enraged by their conduct, and they were saved from the violence of the crowd only by the timely arrival of the police who escorted the "Black Shirts" to the police station and detained them under police protection till midnight. In the meantime, crowds gathered on the riverbed where the Dravidian Federation Conference was being held and attacked the Conference pandal, leading to the serious disturbance of the day.

Government accept the finding of the Enquiry Officer that the origin and cause of the disturbances are to be found in the entry of the Black Shirts into the Meenakshi temple on the 10th, 11th and 12th of May and their subsequent offensive conduct. The fact that batches of "Black Shirts" who have no faith in Gods and temples were found inside the temple on the 10th, 11th and 12th May, 1946, supports the version that their presence was not innocent, that they did not visit the temple as sight-seers but went for the purposes of insulting and ridiculing the idols and the worshippers, and this conduct naturally enraged the worshippers and led to the subsequent disturbances.

In the hope that the leaders of the "Black Shirts" will direct their activity along healthier and more orderly lines in future, the Government do not propose to take action against them in connection with these occurrences but any repetition of such behaviour will be dealt with severely. The Government take this opportunity of assuring full protection to worshippers at shrines against molestation and offensive conduct.

Producer Defined

Issued on November 7

Requests have been received by the Government to define the term "producer" used in their orders in connection with the grant of bonus for delivery of food grains alleging that it is differently interpreted by landlords and by tenants. To clear the position the Government issue the following note:

The term "producer" in the context of the G.Os. relating to grant of bonus applies:—

(1) to landholders who cultivate their lands by hired labour.

(2) to landholders who lease out their lands and obtain rent from their tenants in kind.

(3) to tenants who cultivate the lands belonging to others and share the produce with the landholder under the terms of the lease.

In the case of item (1) the landholder will be eligible for the bonus due on the entire quantity of food grains sold by him. In the case of items (2) and (3) the landholder and the tenant will be eligible for the bonus on the quantity sold by them out of the share of the produce due to each under the terms of the lease deed. The Government however will pay the bonus only to the person who sells the foodgrain to their agents and cannot, for obvious reasons, try to find out in each case what portion of the bonus should go to the landlord and what portion to the tenant. If a landlord sells the tenant's share of the produce too and gets the bonus or if the tenant sells the landlord's share of the produce too and obtains the bonus, it will be open to either party to seek relief against the other for his share of the bonus.

Five-Year Plan of Post-War Development

Issued on November 11

The five-year plan of post-war development for the Province was originally drawn up on the expectation that a sum of about Rs. 135 crores would be available for expenditure during the five years after the termination of hostilities and out of this Rs. 27.79 crores were allotted for road development. The position has had to be reviewed in view of the nation building programme since initiated by the Government which have necessitated a reduction of allotment for post-war programme originally made and it is now considered that the five year plans have to be revised so as to bring down the total expenditure to about Rs. 80 crores. In making the revision, the Government consider that priority should be given to schemes of economic development which will increase the income of the people and their taxable capacity arising therefrom and that schemes that provide for social amelioration and consequent heavy recurring expenditure will have to be comparatively slowed down.

The Government of India have informed this Government that the expenditure tentatively approved by them on National Highways in this Province for the five-year period commencing 1-4-1947 is Rs. 2.5 crores and the Chief Engineer (Highways) has accordingly been asked to revise the proposals for works on National Highways, for the reduced allotment of Rs. 2.5 crores.

After examination of the proposals submitted by the Chief Engineer (Highways) for the revision of the programme so far as it relates to roads other

than National Highways the Government have decided that in the light of the general principles enunciated above, a five year programme costing about Rs. 7 crores might be drawn up for the present and that the question of increasing allotment may be considered, say after two years, if more funds become available.

The above allotment of Rs. 7 crores will be exclusive of an allotment of Rs. 9.90 crores for increased expenditure on maintenance of roads newly formed or improved under the post-war plan and the allotment for tools and plant which is provisionally fixed at Rs. 1.75 crores pending receipt of the report due from the Chief Engineer in regard to the possibility of reducing expenditure on tools and plant for the Department. The total allotment for the road plan for the first quinquennium of Post-War Development excluding National Highways will thus be Rs. 9.55 crores.

The available funds should distribute generally in keeping with the needs of each area in the province, 60 per cent. being allotted for works on Provincial Highways and major District roads and 40 per cent. on other District roads and village roads. In view of the curtailment of the programme it may not be possible to adhere to the target of providing road connection to all villages with a population of over 500 each. This target should however be kept in view in drawing up the revised programme.

The Chief Engineer has been requested to draw up a revised five-year plan and a project estimate in accordance with the above instructions and with the instructions issued by the Government from time to time in regard to individual works and fix priority for the works and submit them for the approval of Government as expeditiously as possible and in any case not later than 31st March, 1947. As the works have to be taken up for execution immediately, plans and estimates for the more urgent of them which will in any case find a place in the revised programme should be prepared concurrently with the revision of the programme, generally in keeping with the order of priority that might be allotted for the works in the revised programme. This programme may be drawn up on the basis of the pre-war estimates plus 75% increase as was done in the case of the original programme or pre-war rates plus 80 per cent as proposed by the Government of India in the case of National Highways, whichever is considered convenient. The detailed estimates should however be drawn up on the basis of the current schedule of rates except in the case of large projects in respect of which the suggestion of the Government of India in para 7 of their letter P.L. 12 (102), dated 21-9-46 should be adopted if suitable.

Bonus for Short-Term Crops

Issued on November 8

To encourage the cultivation of short-term crop of paddy, the Government sanctioned in G.O. No. 525, dated 5-7-46 the grant of bonus at the rate of Re. 1 per maund for paddy delivered to the Government or their procuring agents from the 1st September, 1946 to the 15th November, 1946. They also decided that the short term paddy classified as third sort should be paid for at the rates fixed for paddy, second sort. Due to delay in the receipt of supplies in the rivers and canals in the Cauvery Delta, the cultivation of Kuruvai and other short term crops was unavoidably delayed by about 3 to 4 weeks. The harvest which used to be completed by the end of October is likely to drag on till about the middle of November. It has been represented that the cultivation and harvest of Kuruvai was delayed due to causes beyond the control of the ryots and that as the orders of the Government stand at present the bulk of the ryots will not be eligible for the concessions. The Government are, therefore, pleased to direct that producers of short-term crops who expect to reap it before the 30th November may send a written intimation by registered post or through messenger to the Taluk Supply Officer before 16-11-46 of the quantities and varieties of grain they propose to deliver before the close of November and to obtain the Supply Officer's acknowledgement. Ryots who file such intimation and who deliver paddy in pursuance thereof before the evening of 30-11-46, will be eligible for the bonus of Re. 1 per maund so delivered. Payment of second sort price will also continue for such deliveries. It is hoped that the ryots will take full advantage of it and deliver all the short-term paddy they wish to sell before the end of this month.

New Electric Connections

Issued on Nov. 9.

In order to conserve materials for the war effort, supply of electricity to new consumers had to be confined to essential military and civil needs. Although these Restriction and Control Orders over electric supply to domestic and industrial services are being gradually relaxed throughout the province, it has not been possible to give supply to new loads in the Madras City and suburbs owing to the overloaded position of the M.E.S.C. power-house. After carefully considering measures to augment the plant capacity of the M.E.S.C. power-house with a view to improve electric supply in the City of Madras, the Government are now glad to announce that some amount of relaxation of the restrictions on supply to new domestic and small industrial loads is now possible.

New domestic services in the areas served by the M.E.S.C. Ltd., will be permitted to the extent of the monthly quotas indicated below:—

(1) Madras 300; (2) Alandur 8; (3) Villivakkam 4; (4) Tiruvottiyur 4; (5) Sembium 6.

Applications now pending with the M.E.S.C. Ltd., and the other four electric supply undertakings, including applications for which permits were refused in the past, will now be taken up in the order of priority for sanction of supply, and no new applications are necessary in such cases. Preference will, however, be given to wired buildings ready for immediate connection. Special permits will also be given in cases of special hardship.

In the case of applications for industrial loads, it will be necessary to establish essentiality in individual cases excepting in the case of loads already accepted by Government as essential for civilian purposes such as agricultural pumping. Intending applicants for industrial loads are advised to apply either to the Director of Industries and Commerce or to the Collector of Madras or Chingleput district in the first instance for the necessary essentiality certificate.

Accelerated Wells Scheme

Issued on Nov. 9.

Wells in villages in the absence of seasonal rains, are the *sine qua non* for the progress of agriculture

(Continued on Page 25)

PREMIER DEFENDS TEXTILE POLICY

Sri T. Prakasam, Prime Minister, Madras, issued a press statement on 12-11-46.

In the detailed press statement issued by me on the 11th October, 1946, I have already dealt with all the criticisms which had been made in the press and on the platform up till then. The object of this statement is to deal with the criticisms which have been advanced since then.

As regards the recent debate in the Council of State on Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar's resolution suggesting that the development of the cotton textile industry should be controlled by the Centre on an all-India basis changing completely the existing legal position in this respect, it will be sufficient for me to say that no Central Government, much less the present Interim Government, is likely to take any action in the matter without consulting the Provinces, and that this Government need deal with the matter only if and when their views on that resolution are invited by the Interim Government.

2. I shall deal in a separate statement with the criticisms which have been made on the basis of the alleged possible repercussions of the Government's policy on the production of cotton in this province. In this statement, I shall dispose of all the other criticisms which call for any reply. These may be summed up as follows:—

Having regard to the actual progress made by the All-India Spinners' Association so far, there can be no room for any great optimism in regard to the success of the Government's khadi scheme.

Khadi cannot make any appreciable headway because under Section 297 of the Government of India Act, 1935, dumping of mill cloth by mills outside this Province cannot be prevented.

Those who have advanced the former point have been good enough to add that khadi can continue to be a valuable subsidiary cottage industry for our village folk, most of whom are agriculturists. This is mere lip service to khadi and those critics have not attempted to indicate precisely what they consider to be the possible limits of development of this subsidiary cottage industry and they have not asked themselves whether any sincere attempt can be made to realise its potentialities in the absence of the necessary psychological atmosphere. As Mahatma Gandhi has forcefully pointed out, if we have faith in khadi and recognise its special merit and suitability for a country like ours, where the masses of the people have no near prospect of more remunerative and useful employment, neither the erection of new mills nor the expansion of the existing mills considered as feasible under the post-war plan in the near future can affect this picture. We should act according to the conviction and it is idle to expect the villagers to take to khadi seriously while things are done to make them believe that their cloth requirements will be met by increased production of mill cloth and that they can afford to take decreasing interest in hand-spinning. Further, villagers will also suspect the scheme as they will think that they are being asked to be content with khadi while the fine mill cloth is being made for towns. It would be more frank for the critics to state that mills should be developed as rapidly as possible and this "valuable subsidiary" left to the care of faddists fighting a hopeless battle and patronised in a harmless way by the Government and the people without undue concern.

This line of criticism does also less than justice to the work of the All-India Spinners' Association which has been fighting the battle for khadi single-handed, against very heavy odds and formidable difficulties, created not only by previous Governments but also by vested interests.

These critics may have ignored also the production of khadi by private agencies not certified by the All-India Spinners' Association. The results achieved by this Association even in a district like Coimbatore, where numerous textile mills have been functioning, fully justify the Government's optimism regarding the success of their schemes under the very favourable conditions which will be created as a result of the policy declared by them.

The real fallacy in the line of arguments adopted by these critics is to be found in the fact that they do not realise that this Government's scheme is the first large-scale khadi programme initiated on the direct responsibility of a Government run by the representatives of the people and that the programme will be pursued with all the vigour and drive which a Government administrative machinery can contribute. What can be achieved under such a programme in the future cannot therefore be judged on the basis of the naturally more limited progress achieved by the All-India Spinners' Association under conditions which would have damped the enthusiasm of any but this band of enthusiasts who have devoted their lives to the cause of khadi. The service and guidance of these tried workers have kindly been made available for the working of the Government's khadi scheme and this surely is another vital factor which the critics have to take into account. That the Government's textile policy is justified will be evident from the fact testified to in the report of the Fact-Finding Committee appointed by the Central Government that, thanks to the negligible production of mill yarn in the Punjab so far, hand-spun yarn accounts for nearly 60% of the cotton cloth produced in that province. If the picture is different in our province and hand-spun yarn accounts for less than three-fourths per cent. of hand-woven cotton cloth, the reason is to be found in the growth of textile mills which has been allowed so far here.

As for the second line of criticism based on the possibility of dumping of mill cloth in this province. I would point out that, under the present conditions, the distribution of cloth is controlled on an All-India basis and that the question of dumping of mill cloth in any area cannot arise at all. The application of the argument based on Section 297 of the Government of India Act can, therefore, arise only in regard to the post-control period, and such an argument must obviously be examined on the basis that, under the Government's programme there will be growing enthusiasm for khadi among the people of

(contd. on the next page.)

REVISED TEXTILE CONTROL

SOME MODIFICATIONS

A brief account of the revised textil : control measures as adumbrated in G.O. No. 2826, dated July 23, 1946, was given in the "Madras Information" of October 19. The Village, Taluk, Town and District Committees for food, formed earlier, were to be enlarged, so as to control the distribution of mill cloth as well, by the addition of Textile Control Officers and representatives of handloom weavers, master-weavers and dealers in yarn and cloth. But on further consideration, the Government decided that it was not necessary to have representatives of master-weavers and of dealers in yarn and cloth on any of these committees, and the previous order was accordingly modified by G.O. No. 3297, dated the 27th August, 1946. A further modification was effected by a subsequent G.O. The previous orders had stipulated that handloom weavers' representatives on the committees should be nominated by recognized weavers' organisations functioning in the area. But it was brought to the notice of the Government that suitable weavers' organisations did not exist in all areas in the province. Consequently, in order to ensure a uniform procedure throughout the Province, it was directed in G.O. No. 3571, dated the 18th September, 1946, that the weavers' representatives on all the committees including the Madras City Committee should be elected by the remaining members of those committees.

(Continued from the previous page)

this province. To the extent to which there is such enthusiasm and corresponding production of khadi, there would be so much less demand for any other cloth from sources outside this province. Cloth from these outside sources will come into this province only to the extent of the demand for it, as no mill-owners or dealers outside this province will be willing to make a gift of their cloth to this province. It will thus be clear that, quite apart from the action that the Government can take in the matter to safeguard the interests of a cottage industry which they regard as of vital importance, the purchasing agencies in this province will, in their own interests, regulate their purchases of cloth produced outside the province with reference to what can be sold here. I would also point out that, since the commencement of All-India textile control, imports into and exports of cloth from provinces have been effectively controlled and it is quite wrong to assume that this position will not continue. It is also wrong to assume that the legislative changes necessary for giving adequate powers to the provinces for dealing with any situation anticipated in the post-control period will not be made in time. There is every reason to think that such changes will be among those which will be considered and decided by the Constituent Assembly whose deliberations will commence shortly. If any such changes are necessary even before the expiry of the textile control period, they will undoubtedly be pressed for and obtained. Neither the Government, nor the provincial Legislature nor the public of this province, are likely to acquiesce in a state of affairs in which programmes and policies accepted as sound and beneficial to the province cannot be successfully implemented.

Eloquent Figures

(By M. K. Gandhi)

When Shri S. Venkateswaran, the Provincial Textile Commissioner of Madras was in Delhi specially for the purpose of the Madras Khadi scheme, I asked him to give me his own figures on the assumption that Madras had no mills and had to clothe the whole Presidency in Khadi.

Here are the figures which speak for themselves:

"Population of Madras Province	53 millions
Number of families in the Province: 53,000,000 / 4	13.25 millions
Quantity of hand-spun yarn that each spinner can spin every day, working 1 hour per day. ..	3/8 of a hank
Total quantity of yarn that will be produced per family per month of 30 working days: 3/8 x 30 = 90/8	11-1/4 hanks
(One spinner for each family) Production of hand-spun yarn per family per annum: = 12 x 11-1/4 =9-9/14 =	135 hanks 9.64 lbs or 10 lbs. roughly, equal to 30 yds. of cloth (width 44" average).
Total production of Khadi cloth in the Province 30 x 13.25 =	397.5 million yds.
Quantity of Khadi cloth required for clothing the entire population at 20 yds per adult and 10 yds. per child 37 million x 20 =	740 million yds.
16 million x 10 =	160 million yds.
	900 million yds.
Percentage of production to the requirements of cloth	44.1%

"It seems to follow that we cannot get enough hand-spun yarn for meeting the cloth requirements in full unless each family contributes a spinner working, in the average, for about 2½ hours daily or unless we can secure about five spinners for every two families in the Province.

Handlooms Required

On the assumption that an average weaver, even after due training cannot weave more than five yards daily, or 125 yds. per month (allowing five days every month, for festivals and other days of rest) the number of looms required for the production of 900 million yards is 6,00,000. The number of handlooms weaving cotton yarn in this province now is only a little over 5,00,000. The number of cotton yarn looms will therefore have to be increased by at least 7,500 to make the Province self-sufficient in terms of Khadi."

Is it extravagant to expect every five persons out of eight to spin one hour per day, say for love of the country of their birth?

PROHIBITION NEWS

Kurnool

The events following the introduction of prohibition in this district were characterised by the willing co-operation by the public to make prohibition a success. The happenings at Maddikera and Kothakota villages in this district deserve particular mention.

A propaganda meeting was arranged by the Special Development Staff at Maddikera. At the meeting, particular reference was made to the responsibility of the public in making prohibition a success by co-operating with the Government staff. The meeting had the desired effect. That very night a band of young men went about on detection work and unearthed nearly 400 pots of fermented wash in nearby fields. The Erukulas who were found responsible for this crime gave a solemn assurance that they would no more take to illicit drinking and have since then converted themselves into an *ad hoc* Vigilance Committee and have been carrying on a tearing campaign for the detection of I.D.

1

When Prohibition was first introduced in Salem toddy shops were converted into tea shops.

Tempting Echoes Across Tungabhadra

Kothakota Village lies on the borders of the Nizam's Dominions. The river Thungabhadra divides Kothakota from Rajole in the Nizam's Dominions where traffic in liquor has been going on at full blast and the noise of revelry at the toddy shop of Rajole is echoed across the river Thungabhadra tempting the ex-addicts of Kothakota village. To prevent the ex-addicts from falling a prey to the drink evil again, the leading men of the village have organised bhajanas as a counter-attraction to drink, an ad hoc Committee consisting of representatives of different communities has been formed. The members of this committee are required to visit all the houses in their ward to find out if anybody had been to Rajole and to prevent liquor crimes. The local Weavers' Society has deputed 2 of its employees after office hours for this detection work. This arrangement is having a marvellous effect on the ex-addicts. The villagers of Kothakota, particularly of the weaver community who were notoriously addicted to drink, have been completely weaned from the drink evil, despite the inviting noise of the liquor shop across the river at Rajole.

Maddikera and Kothakota have thus earned their first laurels and have given a proper lead in the cause of prohibition in this district.

Counter-attraction

The sudden stoppage of alcoholic drinks which was said by some obstinate drunkards to produce ill-effects on the social and physical activities of the drinking public has brought about a change for the better. The ex-addicts look cheerful, happy and contented. Even the sceptics have begun to realise that the non-consumption of intoxicating liquors has made the drunkards more active and energetic. Time spent in drink is being utilised in a feverish search for employment and betterment of life.

REFRESHMENT STALLS:—Out of 210 stalls proposed to be opened in this district 102 stalls were opened upto the end of October 1946.

GRAMASANGHAMS:—Steps were taken for the formation of Gramasanghams and Taluk Prohibition Committees.

THRIFT:—An intensive thrift campaign has been set on foot. The Kurnool District Co-operative Central Bank has agreed to prepare 2,000 hundi boxes for distribution to Co-operative Societies and others anxious to save. The Weavers Societies were persuaded to enhance the rate of thrift fund collections from one anna to two annas in the rupee of wages paid.

PARKS AND ENTERTAINMENTS

A park was opened at Markapur by the Panchayat Board on 2-10-46. Proposals are on hand for opening parks at other suitable centres in the district.

A site has been selected at Markapur to provide entertainment to the ex-addicts by starting a Cinema. Tenders have been called for and the matter is pending with the Tahsildar, Markapur.

Bhajanas were organised at Markapur, Giddalur, Kothakota, Kodumur and a few other centres in the district.

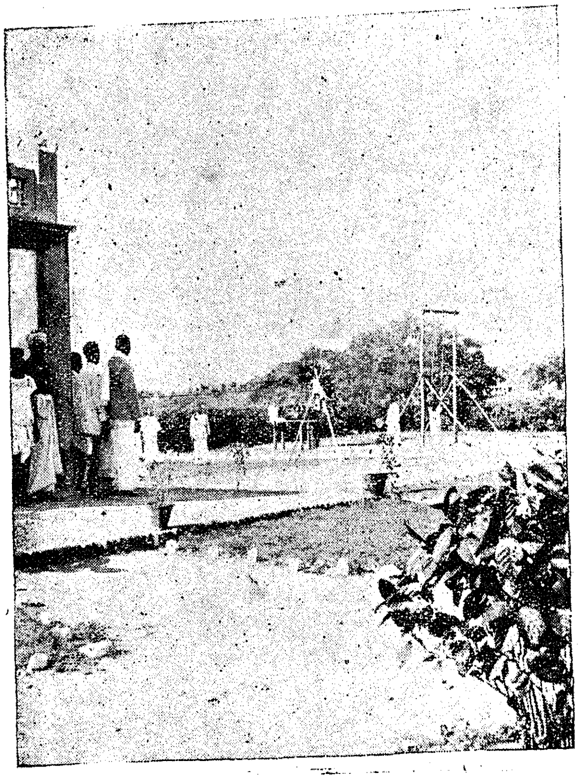
Just a month has elapsed since the introduction of prohibition in this district and the results achieved though not very spectacular are encouraging and bid fair for a prosperous future.

Salem

The first fortnight following the reintroduction of prohibition in the Salem district has been a period of marked and intense preparatory activities both on the ameliorative and preventive sides. Great enthusiasm prevails in villages over the closure of toddy shops. Ex-addicts and other families, especially womenfolk, greet prohibition with immense relief and joy. The economic benefits of prohibition are observable even at this early stage amongst ex-addicts and their families. Money formerly going to the toddy shops is now coming in for the benefit of the family and such saving is being utilized for the purchase of new cloth and other requirements. The general impression gathered by the Special Development Officer from the ex-addicts and the general public during his tour extending over forty villages and towns goes to show that prohibition has this time come to stay. The people are appreciative of its beneficial results and the ex-addicts are being successfully weaned from their old habits by intensive amenities programme and supply of tea, coffee, spiced jaggery water and other refreshments. From reports so far received 234 refreshment stalls have been opened for ex-addicts in places where toddy shops were running previously. Different kinds of amenities, such as gramaphone songs, radio, kummi, kolattam, bajanas, street dramas, folk dances, etc., etc., are provided for in addition to chadu-gudu and other sports. Free admission has been arranged for some of the poor ex-addicts in the cinemas running at Salem, Namakkal, Mallur, Omalur, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Paramathi, Velur and Tiruchengode. Enquiries made during the inspection of these refreshment stalls reveal that some of the ex-addicts enjoy better food and more comfortable and peaceful home life. Some have purchased new dhoties, shorts, blankets, sarees for their family and frocks for children in the Omalur and Harur area. A few of them purchased kids and pullets in the Salem area.

2

And village parks were provided with radio installation



3

And play-grounds in the park.

Savings Drive

Arrangements are being made with the Salem Central Bank for making 4,000 hundi boxes to inaugurate thrift and savings drive in select villages, where co-operative societies are working fairly well.

Jobs For Ex-Toddy Tappers

Statistics of ex-toddy tappers are being taken to fit them in suitable employment. A meeting of ex-toddy tappers was convened at Ayodipatnam at which the co-operative colonization scheme and jaggery production Scheme were explained by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Special Development Officer. The District Superintendent

(contd. on the next page.)

FOOD FACTS

1. Nine months ago, India faced a deficit of 7,000,000 tons, representing over 10% of the country's normal production per annum.

2. Of this deficit she asked for 4,000,000 tons from abroad, but has got so far only 1,500,000 tons of wheat and other grains, and 250,000 tons of rice, making a total of 1,750,000 tons, which is less than half of what was asked for.

3. These imports have cost India Rs. 91 crores. The Government have, in addition, incurred an expenditure of Rs. 15½ crores to cover the difference between the cost price of the imports and the prices prevalent in India. The total cost thus exceeds Rs. 100 crores.

4. 3,800,000 tons have been obtained through internal procurement, which is more than double the imports. Encouraging as it is, this is but a small fraction of the available surplus.

5. *MADRAS HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROCURE 94% of the SURPLUS OF INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS, WITH BOMBAY COMING NEXT WITH 60%.*

6. The progress, achieved in rationing is phenomenal. In March 1943 only 2 million people were rationed; to-day 150 million people are under ration. 50 million urban people are completely rationed, while 100 millions of the rural population are under controlled distribution.

Upto the beginning of October, 771 towns and rural areas have been rationed. In addition, 420 more towns with a population of 5.5 million in the urban and rural areas are expected to be rationed shortly.

7. As for the fixation of prices, no case can be made for a higher price, considering that with August 1939 as the base, the price of rice has risen 322%, wheat 373%, sugar 169%, cotton 192% and jute 227%.

8. From the Grow More Food Campaign, only 4,000,000 tons or 1/5th of the total produce is expected. Half a maund extra per acre of the 240,000,000 acres under cultivation should enable India to attain this target in five years.

9. During the week ended October 24, 15,900 tons of rice, 4,350 tons of maize, 2,600 tons of millets, and 12,200 tons of barley were received from overseas.

(contd. from the previous page.)

of Police spoke on salient features of the Prohibition Act and appealed for the co-operation of the public.

Rural Uplift Sangams, Village Officers' Firka Sangams, Co-operative Societies and Taluk Uplift Associations are associating themselves enthusiastically with the ameliorative and propaganda aspects of the prohibition drive. Firka tournaments and inter-village tournaments have been arranged in some areas and prizes awarded to the winners.

Coimbatore

(1) Public meetings were held at Tiripur (Bhavani taluq), Kavundapadi, Athani, Ulagadam, Kallipatti, Siruvelur and Kurumandur under the presidency of the Collector, F. W. A. Morris, Esq., I.C.S.

(2) At a meeting of the District Food Committee held on 29-10-46 under the presidency of the Collector, it was decided that coconut sweet-juice should not be allowed to be tapped lest it should affect the enforcement of prohibition adversely.

(3) The District Committee constituted a Sub-Committee for running Rural Uplift Schools in the district.

(4) The refreshment stall at Tiripur (Bhavani taluq), attracts about 300 ex-drinkers daily while that at Maniyarampalayam draws 200 ex-drinkers for refreshments.

(5) 50 co-operative societies have been organised for the manufacture of palmyrah jaggery and nearly Rs. 6,000 of share-capital have been collected.

Vellore

(1) The Tea Marketing Expansion Board has opened two more stalls at Vellore for providing free tea to ex-drinkers. 300 cups of tea are supplied in these two shops daily.

(2) Rural sports on an elaborate scale were conducted at Karai near Ranipet. The gramasangham contributed from its funds for prizes which were given for the sports.

(3) A new Poultry Farm was opened at Arni by Mrs. De Velois of the Katpadi Agricultural and Poultry Farm, when propaganda was done by the Special Development Officer for prohibition and hundi box savings.

Anantapur

(1) The Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition (Amelioration) inaugurated the hundi box scheme at Gooty, Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Doddagetta.

(2) The ex-toddy tappers of Doddagetta with the aid of a few professionals entertained the ex-drinkers of the village as well as others with a dramatic performance. The President of the District Board presided over the function and the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition (Amelioration) and the Sub-Collector at Penukonda attended the function.

(3) The Manager of the Sisal Factory near Penukonda has offered to employ 150 toddy-tappers on work connected with the factory.

(4) The organisation of a co-operative society with some of the ex-drinkers at Gooty as its members for the supply of milk to Gooty has been taken on hand.

(5) The organisation of a co-operative building society at Guntakkal which is likely to provide employment for ex-toddy tappers has also been taken up.

(6) The possibilities for the organisation of societies for the manufacture of date-jaggery are under consideration.

(7) The Anantapur Municipality is considering proposals for opening additional parks and installing more radios within the Municipal limits. A Welfare Centre for its scavengers and a House Building Scheme are also under its consideration.

(8) The Athletic Association at Anantapur is reviving tournaments in hockey and foot-ball and proposes to commence a fresh tournament in chadugudu.

(9) The High School at Guntakkal is making arrangements to instal a new radio in its premises.

(10) The first Rural Uplift School in Anantapur district is proposed to be started at Gooty on the 15th of November.

INCREASE IN RICE RATION LIKELY

The following Statement was issued by the Hon'ble Premier on the Food Situation on November 11.

Towards the middle of September, the rice stocks were getting low and it was considered doubtful if it would be possible even to maintain the 8 oz. ration of rice. The suggestion was made that the rice portion of the ration should be cut still further to 6 oz. I was reluctant to take that step until all other methods had been tried and our local resources had been fully mobilised. In fact such a cut had been ordered in the district of Malabar but I returned in time from Delhi to stop it. I therefore made an appeal to the producers to reduce their requirements to 12 oz. of rice per adult per day and sell as much paddy or rice as they could spare to the purchasing agents of the Government. In recognition of this sacrifice I authorised the payment up to 31-10-1946 of Rs. 2 per maund of paddy or Rs. 3 per maund of rice over and above the price fixed for purchases from producers. This was inclusive of the bonus of Re. 1 per maund of short term paddy delivered in September and October upto the middle of November. I also ordered that paddy or rice which was classified as 3rd sort should be paid for at the rates fixed for 2nd sort.

The response of the producers has been magnificient. The quantity of paddy and rice sold to the agents of the Government between 12-9-1946 to 31-10-1946 amounted to 1,59,611 tons in terms of rice. The present stocks of rice and paddy represent the requirements of a little over six weeks. I thank the producers for their splendid co-operation and assure the consumers that there will be no further reduction in the rice portion of the ration.

I am not of course content with this and am anxious to raise the rice ration as soon as possible. The time for the grant of bonus for the short term crop has been extended to the 30th of November. All producers may send or file declarations to the Taluk Supply Officers before 16-11-1946 of the quantities they intend to sell before 30-11-1946, and those who deliver their grains before 1-12-1946 in pursuance of such declarations will be entitled to the bonus of Re. 1 per maund of paddy and for rice at the second sort rate. I expect that in consequence all the crop which has been recently harvested will come under Government control by the end of November. The Government of India have made further allotments of rice from Central Provinces and Orissa. They have begun to move and the rice should reach the province by the end of this month. If these expectations are realised it should be possible to raise the rice ration in December. I shall continue to watch the position and shall raise the rice content of the ration as soon as possible.

A Mischievous Report Contradicted

THE Government have seen a report published in the 'People's Age' dated September 22, 1946 under the captions "In Madras Province—Under Prakasam Ministry—Where the blackmarketeers flourish and workers' leaders are jailed".

The main allegation made in the report is that specific instances of hoarding of cereals had been brought to the notice of the authorities and that culprits had been let off without being punished.

The Government wish to state in this connection that the statement made by the "People's Age" contains half-truths and untruths which could well have been avoided by a reference to the local authorities.

The house of Mr. M. K. Ramaswamy Aiyer in Madura (the person referred to in the 'People's Age') was searched on June 29, 1946 and 34 bags 12 m.m. of rice were seized. He was prosecuted for the offence under the Madras Essential Articles Restricted Acquisition Order and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 200 by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate, Madura Town.

On the information supplied by a member of the Communist Party to the Collector of Madura that a hidden stock of 6,000 bags of cereals existed in the adjoining villages of Madura Town, all the adjacent villages were raided by the Grains Purchase Tahsildar, Firka Supply Officer and the District Supply Officer, Madura.

No large hidden stock, as alleged by the Communist informant could be traced except in a few cases in Pedambu village and the surplus stock found therein, 371 bags of paddy, has been procured. Thus to say that 6,000 bags of hoarded cereals had been discovered by the Communist and no action had been taken by the authorities on the information furnished, is incorrect and exaggerated.

Whenever any information is received by the local authorities from any source, it is the considered policy of the Government to take quick action. In accordance with this policy, in Madura, to take but one example, 460 bags were procured from several ryots in the months of July and August 1946 in the villages of Tehnur, Umachikulam, Vairananathan, Koilpapagudi, Senagannatthur, Paranani and Ambalathedi. These villages lie in the border of Madura Town.

In addition to these timely steps to stamp out hoarding of cereals and profiteering, the wholesale depot of Mr. Thangappa Nadar of Madura Town was raided on July 13, 1946 and 228 bags of paddy hidden under husk were seized. The licence of the wholesale dealer has been suspended and a case has been launched against him which is sub-judice.

As regards other allegations against the present Government, the Government do not propose to say anything as they are very vague.

It is the earnest hope of the Government that journals will conform to the recognised canons of journalism by taking the trouble to verify facts before they rush to the press and thus avoid publishing misleading and incorrect information.

FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE

(For the fortnight ending 31-10-46)

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains and pulses during the fortnight, but the price of chillies decreased slightly and there were slight increases in the prices of groundnut, gingelly and copra and their oils. The price of groundnut oilcake, gingelly oilcake and cotton seed remained stationary.

Rice

28,480 tons of paddy and rice in terms of rice, and 4,020 tons of millets, were procured in the fortnight ending 15-10-46. This represents a considerable rise in the procurement of rice over the figure for the previous fortnight which was 15,992 and is due chiefly to the coming of Kuruvai paddy on the market in the southern districts and procurement of the Kanni crop in Malabar. Rice imports were on a small scale during the fortnight as the quotas recently allotted from Orissa and the Central Provinces had not yet started to move in large quantities. Consequently, the stock position of rice in the deficit districts of Chingleput, Coimbatore, Ramnad, Chittoor and the Ceded Districts was not satisfactory. However, the Province had in stock at the end of the fortnight six weeks' supply of rice.

Imports

During the fortnight under review the following quantities of cereals and pulses were imported from other Provinces and States and from overseas:

(a) Receipts from other Provinces and States	
Rice	.. 8,485 tons
Millets	.. 148 „
Wheat & Wheat Products	.. Nil
Pulses	.. 7,513 „
Comprising of.	
Blackgram	.. 1,155 tons
Redgram	.. 2,521 „
Greengram	.. 1,564 „
Bengalgram	.. 2,273 „
(b) Imports from Overseas	
Rice	.. 7,200 tons
Millets	.. 1,700 „
Maize	.. 20,008 „
Wheat, Wheat Products, Barley	.. Nil

Village Committees

In West Godavari district it is reported that out of the 632 village committees formed 310 have started work. It is said they have been very helpful to the Government Supply staff in procuring foodgrains.

Millets

The millets position at the end of October was not quite so satisfactory as in the middle of the month. The deterioration was due to the fact that only 1,700 tons of millets was received from Overseas against the October quota of 7,000 tons and due to the slow supply from Gwalior. The off-take has fallen slightly however and the present stocks of 28,576 tons will represent about 1½ months' supply. Stocks of maize continued to increase. The stock with the whole-

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Voluntary Offers of Food-Grains

FOOD MEMBER SUGGESTS COMMON POOL

In connection with a large number of offers received from persons willing to forego a part of their food rations, the Food Member, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, has issued the following statement to the Press:—

Heartening Response

One of the most heartening aspects of the acute phase of the food crisis which our country is passing through today is the magnificent manner in which individuals and areas better off than others have agreed to spare whatever food they can to relieve the distress of others. During the past few weeks surplus provinces have again reviewed their own internal requirements and have agreed to make available over 45,000 tons of foodgrains for the deficit areas, even at the risk of some danger to themselves. Thousands of individuals and voluntary organisations from different parts of the country have written to us offering to forego part of their food rations, and they have asked us what they should do with these supplies. I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have expressed their desire to effect voluntary cuts in their own rations, as well as to those who are doubtless already doing so, but have not written to Government.

Common Pool

After careful consideration of the problem from the administrative point of view, my advice to those in the rationed areas is that they should contribute to a common pool by not drawing their full-scale rations or if by any chance they have household-stocks on their hands, they should refrain from drawing rations altogether until their present stocks are exhausted. The results of their self-denial will be reflected in lower off-takes from the ration shops, and the savings thus effected will be utilised elsewhere to the best advantage.

In non-rationed areas, those who wish to donate grain should do so to local officers to be designated by the provincial Governments, or else appoint someone from their own number commanding wide respect, to collect all quantities of grain donors. When a substantial quantity has been collected, it should be delivered to an officer nominated by the Government.

Appeal to Producers

To producers in the rural areas, I renew my appeal to review the quantity they have kept for their own needs, and sell as much as they can, and as quickly as possible, either to local retailers or to the Government procurement agencies. No one will be penalised for so far withholding grain, but Government are not prepared to sanction a rise in grain prices above the levels at present in force.

Non-officials and voluntary organisations in the rural as well as in non-rationed areas, can assist me in my very difficult task by offering to collect grain from those desiring to sell even small quantities, or from those offering grain as donation, and delivering these supplies to Government officers.

HIS EXCELLENCY END ORSES PREMIER'S APPEAL

GOVERNOR'S TOUR IN TAMIL NAD

His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras, accompanied by Lady Nye, visited Palamcottah on October 28.

At Tinnevelly Junction the Governor inspected a ration shop and advised officials to do more propaganda to popularise millets.

His Excellency and party visited a cheap food canteen at Tiruvai village. Later he opened at Tinnevelly Junction the Victory Memorial Arch, built in memory of the Allied victory over Germany and Japan.

Thanking Mr. J. A. D. Victoria, the donor of the arch, His Excellency said, that the arch would provide a permanent memorial to India's contribution to the victory of the Allies.

Tribute to Food Administration

Thanking the Tinnevelly District Board and the Municipal Council, which presented addresses to him in the evening, His Excellency referred to the recent appeal of the Hon'ble Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier, to all cultivators to sell all they had to the Government and said he could do no better than heartily endorse the Premier's appeal. His Excellency paid a tribute to the efficiency with which the food administration of the province was being carried on.

The next function that His Excellency the Governor performed was the opening of a new building for the ex-servicemen at Palamcottah.

Sink Communal Differences

In the course of his speech at the opening ceremony, His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye said that it did not matter whether they were Hindus, Muslims or Christians. They should consider themselves as citizens of a great country. He hoped that Madras which gave a lead on many matters to the rest of India would also be in the forefront in solving communal problems.

Lady Nye's Engagements

Lady Nye visited in the morning the Hospital for Women and Children, and the Municipal Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Nye visited the Pattamadai village, noted for its mat industry.

The Governor and party left for Trichinopoly in the night.

At Trichinopoly

His Excellency the Governor and party arrived at Trichinopoly on October 29 and visited the Grand Anicut.

The Engineers in charge of the anicut explained to His Excellency that the Government had sanctioned a scheme costing Rs. 28 lakhs with a view to deepen and widen the drains to prevent the submerging of the paddy fields and that they hoped to complete the work in 5 years time.

His Excellency remarked "Why not within 2 years?" and added that at the present time when they were suffering from shortage of food, they must expedite plans and methods for growing more food with a sense of extreme urgency.

He tendered the same advice to the Superintending Engineer when the latter acquainted His Excellency with another scheme under consideration for irrigating 20,000 acres by the construction of a high level channel.

On his way back to Trichinopoly, His Excellency visited the Ariyamangalam ration shop and Co-operative Society.

Referring to the suspected existence of black-market in rice at this place, His Excellency remarked to the Collector who was with him that black-marketing should on no account be allowed and imprisonment rather than fine was the best punishment for black-marketers.

His Excellency received deputations from the Trichinopoly Rice Mill Owners' Association, and the Mirasdars' Association. His Excellency promised to consider their grievances in consultation with the Ministers.

Lady Nye visited the St. Anne's Convent Government Hospital, S.W.C.C. Centre and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

First Visit to Temple

In the evening after visiting the Guntus Cigar Factory, His Excellency and party proceeded to the Rock Fort Temple. After ascending to the top of the rock, His Excellency remarked that his visit to a Hindu temple was the first of its kind in his life.

His Excellency and party left for Tanjore in the night.

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salers at the end of the month was 34,535 tons, but taking into account the quantities in transit, the supplies in the province would be about 45,000 tons. The off-take in September was 6,336 tons, but should rise to over 10,000 tons in October. Government of India have been asked not to supply any further quantities of maize or barley to Madras. No barley was received during the fortnight.

Wheat

By the end of the month, the stock of wheat had gone down to 16,104 tons, representing 2½ weeks' supply and stocks were very low in some districts. Stocks are expected at Madras, Tuticorin, Vizagapatam and Cochin in the first fortnight of November. Maida stocks had risen to 9,795 tons by the end of the month, but the maida position continues to be unsatisfactory, since no supplies are expected in November apart from the balance of 3,000 tons due against the October quota.

Pulses

The stock position of pulses continues to improve owing to continued substantial imports of all varieties of pulses from a number of sources. During the fortnight new quotas of 2,000 tons of blackgram from United Provinces, 2,000 tons of Bengalgram from Nabha and 3,000 tons of red gram from Central Provinces were allotted to Madras.

Other Commodities

Shortage of chillies was reported in the urban areas of Trichinopoly district and matches were reported to be scarce in Vizagapatam City, Nellore district and Tanjore district. There was a fuel scarcity in Kumbakonam and arrangements had to be made to divert supplies from Mannargudi.

FIGHTING BACK THE FAMINE

FOOD RATIONING IN THE PROVINCE

Though the word "Rationing" was not much in vogue in this province or even in this country before the outbreak of the last World War in 1939, the main principle underlying it was not foreign to the people. If a family was short of its requirements, particularly in the matter of food, the adult or the senior members of the family would not ordinarily think of eating to their hearts' content, leaving the children and the weaker members to die of starvation. The available quantity would be shared by all the members and all of them would feel satisfied over the distribution, though their needs might not have been fully met. Rationing is only an extension of this principle under which all families living in a country or area, where shortage is noticed or threatened, share what is available, for the common good of all concerned. The main object of food rationing is thus to bring about an equitable distribution of the available supplies, though in the process, the consumption is brought under control and to some extent also reduced. Briefly, it can be said that rationing provides a yardstick for measuring consumption, ensures an equitable distribution, prevents a run on a commodity in short supply, releases surplus quantities for deficit areas, controls prices and restores confidence in the people.

Statutory and Informal Rationing

Rationing in this province is of two kinds, statutory and informal. The latter is also known as rural rationing. Statutory rationing was introduced in Madras City early in September 1943 and it was gradually extended to all the municipal towns of the province by the end of June 1944, and later on to the whole of Malabar district. Rural rationing, which is in force in the rest of the province, is a slightly flexible system, though essentially on the same lines as the statutory rationing. People in Madras City may perhaps recollect with horror the enormous crowds in front of grainshops in the City immediately before the introduction of rationing, trying to elbow through to the counter to get half a measure or one measure of rice, and the inevitable scramble or the stampede that followed it. Happily that state of things was not allowed to continue long, and it may be safely said that it will never recur in any part of the province, whatever may be the stock position. The entire province is now under food rationing of some form or other, and in a town at any rate, any man, woman or child has only to produce his or her card at the nearest ration shop where it is registered and get the rations, invariably in less than five minutes. Look at this picture and the one that we saw in Madras City, though for a short while, before the introduction of rationing.

Good May Come Out of Evil

It is quite likely that some people are not satisfied with the scale or quantity of rations allowed to each, or feel dissatisfied with being asked to accept some unfamiliar foodgrains like wheat, maize, or barley. Rationing started with a one pound ration per adult per day, which was also the standard set by the Foodgrains Policy Committee; but a decrease in production, due to the failure of the monsoon in one part of the province and cyclone havoc in another, coupled with an over-all deficit not only in India, but in several other countries as well, could not fail to have its repercussions on our province. The scale of rations had to be reduced from 16 ozs. to 12 ozs. with effect from the middle of February, last and the rice content of the ration was later on restricted at first to 10 ozs. and then to 8 ozs. in the case of rice eaters. The cardholders were also classified as rice eaters, millet eaters and mixed diet eaters, with reference to their dietic habits and those coming under the last two categories had their rice rations restricted to 2 ozs. and 4 ozs. respectively, the balance of their requirements being given in the shape of millets, wheat, wheat flour (maida), sooji, maize or baker's bread. It is not that the Government are unaware of the inconvenience caused as a result of the cut in the rice rations, but it is a necessary evil, which cannot possibly be avoided. It is, however, fervently

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At Tanjore

Replying to the address of welcome presented to His Excellency by the Tanjore Municipal Council on October 30, the Governor appealed to every landholder and cultivator to cut his rations by 4 oz. a day and utilise the balance to save a child, the future citizen of new India.

Help Your Neighbour

In the morning the Governor and party visited a ration shop at Ayyampet. He told the local authorities that propaganda should be done intensively to this effect, that it was the sound duty of everyone to help his neighbour in other districts, at the present day of food scarcity and not to clamour for full rice ration under the plea that Tanjore was a surplus district.

At Cuddalore

The Governor and party visited in the evening the Tanjore palace. Saraswati Mahal Library, the Industrial School, and the Big Temple.

The party left for South Arcot in the night.

His Excellency and party inspected the Governmental Farm at Palm, 22 miles from Cuddalore on October 31.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture and the District Agricultural Officer showed His Excellency the numerous varieties of sugarcane plants, paddy, groundnut and ragi on which experiments were being made by the experts in the farm. His Excellency remarked that the prosperity and progress of India depended on increased agricultural output and improved methods of farming.

His Excellency and party visited the Gaddilam River Anicut, the sugar factories at Nellikuppam and a rural ration shop.

Premier's Appeal Endorsed

Replying to the address of the Cuddalore Municipal Council in the afternoon, His Excellency said that he would refer the requests of the Council regarding a protected water supply to the Minister concerned. He reiterated the appeal made by the Premier to cultivators to sell as much as they could to the Government.

His Excellency and party left for Madras in the evening.

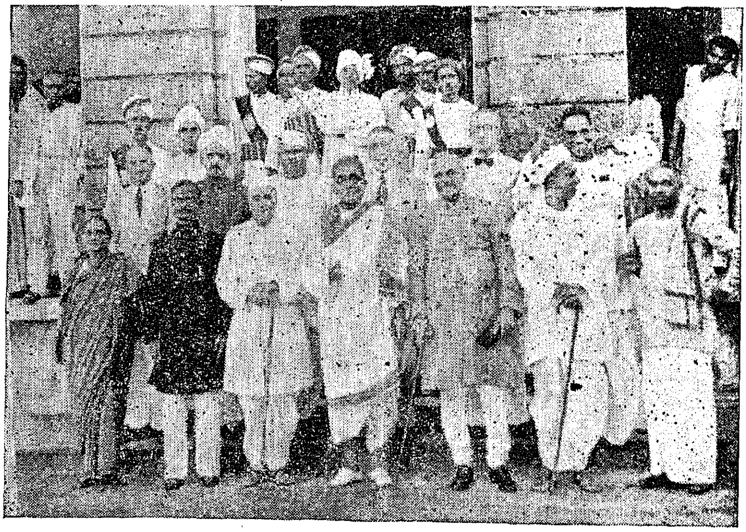
hoped that the old saying that "there is a soul of goodness in things evil" will again prove its worth by making the people of this province wheat-minded or by compelling them to adopt a more balanced diet than what they have so far been accustomed to.

Supplementary Rations

In order, however, to prevent any baneful effects following the reduction in rations, certain precautions have been taken. Supplementary rations of 4 ozs. a day for each adult is granted to several categories of heavy manual labourers. The list is fairly long, containing as many as 400 classes of workers and includes practically all forms of labour, whether in the railway, mills, factories or elsewhere, requiring some amount of manual exertion. But this is given in the shape of wheat, wheat products and grains other than rice, except to the rice-eating heavy manual labourer who will get half of it as rice and the remaining half in other grains. In order to keep the industrial workers in their full health and vigour, the opening of special industrial canteens is being encouraged and such canteens are allowed a special quota of foodgrains at the rate of 6 ozs. for each labourer. This is in addition to his ordinary rations. This extra quantity will also be in the shape of grains other than rice except in the case of old canteens which were receiving rice as part of their rations. They will get 2 ozs. as rice and the balance in other grains. The agricultural labourer has also been provided for. A landless agricultural labourer is either fed by his employer for which necessary allowance is being made or can supplement his 12 ozs. rations with what he gets in kind as wages for casual labour. Any ryot, who cultivates lands, has been allowed to keep with him sufficient quantities of foodgrains to feed himself and his family, calculated at the rate of 16 ozs. or 1 lb. for each adult for a day. But the Hon'ble the Premier has issued an appeal to them in view of the present unsatisfactory rice position in the province to restrict their consumption to 12 ozs. per head and surrender the surplus. Seeing that an ordinary Indian has got profound faith in charity, this should make a special appeal to his generous impulses.

Austerity Measures

Side by side, several austerity measures have also been adopted to see that there is no avoidable wastage of foodgrains and that whatever stocks are available are conserved and put to the best use possible. The number of persons to be fed at any party, other than a marriage party, whether held in open air or in public halls or temples, where food in any form, including parched grain, nuts or biscuits, are served, has been limited to 30. The number of persons to be fed at marriage parties on the day of the marriage has been fixed at 50. Food in this case does not, however, include light refreshments. If there is a breach of the rule, both the host and the guests are liable to be punished. There is also a cut in the scale of rations supplied to catering establishments. No rice is now being given to non-meals hotels, coffee stalls, cafes, etc., which serve only refreshments. Their requirements are given in the shape of other grains,—wheat, wheat flour, sooji, baker's bread or maize. As large quantities of maize are expected to be imported into this province, it is now obligatory on all establishments, including meals hotels to take 10% of their requirements in the shape of maize. In hotels and clubs, rice will not be served to persons taking food in the European style. All these measures are calculated to prevent wastage altogether or to reduce it to the barest minimum and make the available supplies go as far as possible. All the rationing rules have been framed with this object in view. It is difficult to achieve the object without the active co-operation of the public, who should regard it as a sacred duty to strictly adhere to the rules governing rationing. Double drawing of rations, drawing of rations in favour of absentees, or in the names of fictitious persons are all not only offences punishable under the law, but are also heinous moral crimes, which no decent society may tolerate. Will it be too much to expect the kind-hearted people of this province, who are not only imbued with a love of charity, but who are also noted for their practical and sturdy commonsense, to strictly observe these rules and restrictions, which have been framed for the greatest good of the greatest number?



Between Mr. Sivashanmugam Pillai and Mr. Prakasam is Mr. Farodia, Speaker, Bombay Assembly. An at home was given to Mr. Farodia at the Secretariat during his recent visit to Madras.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

I. LABOUR

As soon as the present Ministry took up office, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour issued a statement announcing the labour policy of the Government. Therein it was stated, **inter alia,** that it was the intention of the Government to pass legislation regarding labour conditions at an early stage and appoint, if necessary a permanent machinery such as industrial courts to ensure industrial peace. It was also clearly stated that while it was not their intention to curtail the right of the workers to direct action, it was incumbent on the workers to exhaust all available methods of representation before resorting to it.

Disposal of Disputes

In accordance with this policy, six labour disputes that were pending at the time the Ministry took office, were referred for adjudication under Rule 81-A of D.O.I.R. Six other disputes that arose after the Ministry came into power were also disposed of in the same way. Among these were the disputes in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Ltd., and the Metal and Metallurigical Corporation Ltd., Mettur. Three disputes, including those relating to the city Hotel Workers, and the conservancy workers were referred for conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.

A representative Committee was also set up to settle the rates of wages in the Jayalakshmi Mills, Coimbatore, the only one of its kind in the Province, using waste cotton for spinning.

Strikes Settled or Averted

Besides these major disputes, between the beginning of May and the end of October, there were 140 strikes, all over the Province which were settled by direct negotiation and by the Labour Officers and the Commissioner of Labour by conciliation.

During the same period, strike notices were served by 42 Unions of workers and prompt action was taken to settle the disputes before the expiry of these notices.

In 12 cases the Labour Department, on their own initiative, took on the memoranda of grievances received from representatives of workers and settled the demands by discussion with the employers and employees.

Courts of Inquiry Set Up

As there were frequent disputes in the textile mills in Coimbatore and Madura, the Government have appointed a court of inquiry with Rao Bahadur Mr. Venkataramayya, to examine the conditions of labour in that industry.

Another court of inquiry, with Rao Bahadur Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Naidu, has been set up, to examine the condition of workers in the beedi and cigar factories and tanneries.

All these have been done in accordance with the policy, to which the Government is wedded, that of promoting to the maximum extent concord among, and harmony of interests of, the employers and the employees. That is the surest foundation for building up a happy and prosperous India.

Labour Situation In the Province

The following is a report on the Labour situation in the Madras Province for the fortnight ending 31-10-46.

The Government have decided to grant an increase of 25% in the pay of all scavengers and conservancy menials, with effect from 1-8-46, and to provide for the institution of provident fund for the workers at the rate of Re. 1 per head per mensem in first and second grade municipalities and 8 annas per mensem in the others.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the Mettur Metal Workers' Dispute, and passed orders accordingly. It has been recommended that all the workers, except those who have been actually convicted or against whom criminal cases are pending are to be re-instated. No wages will be paid for the strike period.

The enquiries into the disputes concerning Suryanarayana Spinning Mills, Ramachandra Spinning Mills, Randalapaka, and the City Motor Service, Madras, are proceeding.

The basic wage in Madura Mills Ltd. has been increased, and the rate of dearness allowance has also been revised.

The Labour Unions in Coimbatore have rejected the two months bonus offered by the S.I. Mill Owners' Association and are demanding 6 months bonus. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

The C.S. & U. Mills at Coimbatore, which was closed from 12-9-46 was re-opened on 1-11-46. About 471 out of 3,000 workers reported for work.

The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation which was closed down as a sequel to the workers' strike was re-opened on 2-11-46, following a settlement.

The Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Industries, and the Commissioner of Labour attended the All-India Labour Ministers' Conference in New Delhi.

They also visited the plantations in the Nilgiris and Wyanad areas and studied the conditions of labour.

(Continued from Page 10.)

and the Government have from time to time sanctioned subsidies to put into execution some scheme or other to sink new wells and repair old ones and deepen them.

Not quite satisfied with the progress made so far in the matter of sinking wells for the use of villagers for irrigation purposes, the Government had sanctioned a scheme known as the Accelerated Wells Scheme which envisaged quicker action in the matter.

For the period ending 30-9-46, the total amount of subsidies paid for the sinking of new wells under the above mentioned scheme is Rs. 1,85,30,748 and Rs. 47,15,578 for renovating old wells which had fallen into disuse. The number of new wells for which subsidies have been granted by the Government is 61,439. 30,563 old wells have also been subsidised.

Upto 30-9-46, 26,291 new wells have been sunk and 14,248 old wells have been repaired.

The work regarding 32,029 new wells and 14,655 old wells is in progress.

II. REVENUE

The amelioration of the lot of peasants, who are the backbone of our country, has naturally received the urgent and earnest consideration of the Popular Government. The Government expect soon to undertake legislation with a view to secure a more equitable adjustment of the rights of the tenants and the landholders. Meanwhile, with a view to give immediate relief to ryots, two pieces of interim legislation were undertaken. The preservation of Private Forests Bill sought to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of private forests, while the object of the Tenants and Ryots Protection Act was to provide for temporary protection against eviction and sale of holdings of certain classes of tenants and for the stay of suits and other proceedings relating thereto.

Inquiry into Land Tenure

An enquiry into the land tenure system has been instituted in the Province. A Special Officer of the grade of a District Collector has been appointed to conduct this inquiry. Questionnaires have been prepared, one for all the ryotwari areas excluding Malabar and South Kanara, and another for these excluded areas. Necessary legislation will be undertaken after the report is received. The Special Officer will also examine the recommendations of the committee which was set up by the previous Congress Ministry to study the working of the Malabar Tenancy Act.

To compensate the loss of revenue caused by the introduction of Prohibition, and the grant of subsidies for various food schemes, it is proposed to levy a tax on agricultural incomes. The necessary Bill is under the consideration of the Government.

An enhancement of the rates of commercial taxes is also proposed with the same end in view.

Irrigation Works

Immediately after assumption of office, the Congress Ministry ordered that estimates for repairing the Minor Irrigation works should be prepared at once. The introduction of a comprehensive irrigation legislation is also being considered by the Government.

Village Officers' Pay Increased

When the present Ministry came into power, the Village Officers of the Province were threatening to go on strike. The Revenue Minister appealed to them not to strike and promised to look into their grievances. Accordingly an increase in their pay by Rs. 3 was granted in August.

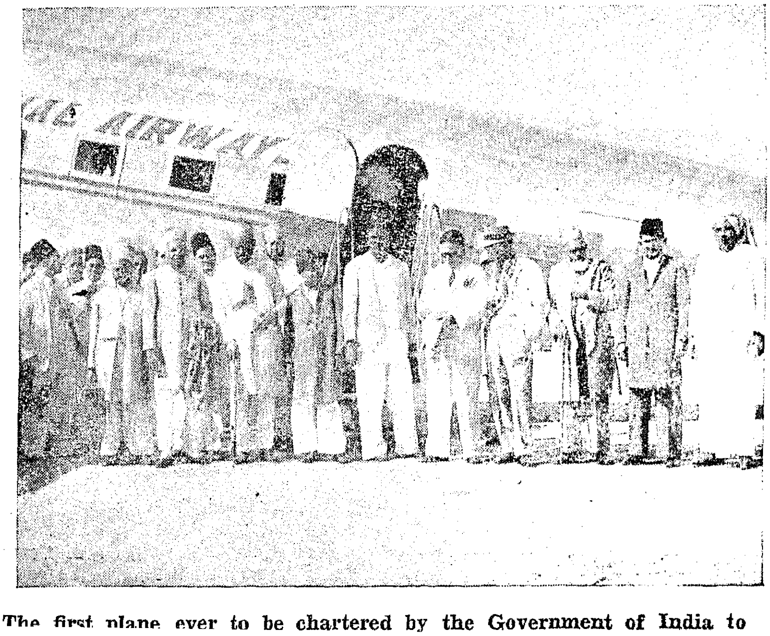
Famine Relief Measures in Affected Areas

The seasonal conditions in Bellary and Anantapur Districts during the latter part of 1945 were far from normal. The Government had therefore undertaken famine relief measures on a very large scale. Numerous expansion works were started; gratuitous relief to the districts was granted even beyond what is prescribed in the famine code. Tinned milk was distributed free to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 8 years of age. Special grants had been made to improve drinking water supply. Depots for the supply of subsidized fodder were opened, 13 in Anantapur and 7 in Bellary.

There has been some rainfall in these two districts in October. The position has consequently improved. 57 Works in Anantapur and 9 in Bellary were in progress in October, thus offering relief to 3,029 and 1,907 people respectively. 8 fodder shops in Anantapur have been closed, while orders have been issued for the closing down of all the seven in Bellary as demand for hill grass is decreasing.

Under the Accelerated Wells Scheme, the Government have granted an extension of time from 30-9-46 to 31-3-47 for the completion of well works, provided substantial work had been done in such cases by 30-9-46.

The scheme for the training of Village headmen which had been in operation since 1944 has been discontinued as it has not been found to be of much use.



The first plane ever to be chartered by the Government of India to

PROPOSALS FOR CENTRAL LEGISLATION

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE DECISIONS

The Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference which met in Delhi on the 14th and 15th of this month was the result of the exchange of correspondence between Mr. V. V. Giri and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who both felt that legislation of an all-India importance envisaging improvement of the working conditions of industrial and other labour should be initiated at the Centre rather than in the various provinces.

The Madras Government originally intended to introduce in the next session of the legislature the following bills:

(1) The Industrial Disputes Bill.
(2) The Shop Assistants Bill.
(3) The Non-power Factories Bill.
(4) The Maternity Benefit Bill.
(5) The Minimum Wages (Industrial Labour) Bill.
(6) The Minimum Wages (Agricultural Labour) Bill.

Copies of the intended legislation were sent to the Government of India. We were informed just before the Conference that the Government of India intended to undertake legislation on all these subjects and on certain other subjects indicated below.

Industrial Disputes Bill

The Government of India's bill differed from ours mainly in the following respects:

(a) The insistence on the establishment of Works Committees.

(b) The differentiation in regard to adjudication between public utility undertakings and other industries resulting in the need for Government notification of every industry to which adjudication was considered necessary as a public utility undertaking.

(c) The provision in our bill for the recognition of Trade Unions which was omitted from the Central Bill.

During the discussions by the Labour Ministers, the Central Government agreed to make Works Committees permissive rather than mandatory and also agreed to make compulsory adjudication available for all industries. As regards the recognition of trade unions, the Government of India propose to amend their Trade Unions Act with a view to provide for the recognition of all representative Trade Unions. As in all these respects the Central Bill meets all our requirements the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Labour agreed not to proceed with our bill.

Shop Assistants' Bill and Non-Power Factories Bill

The Central Government have no intention to introduce legislation on these subjects and this Government therefore propose to proceed with the bills which have already been circulated. They will be introduced at the ensuing session of the Assembly.

Maternity Benefit Bill

The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934, provides for Maternity Benefit for a total period of 7 weeks before and after confinement. It was proposed by this Government to amend this provision to make the period 9 weeks. The Central Health Insurance Bill, however, provides for Maternity Leave and Benefits for 12 weeks. It has therefore been decided to drop our amending legislation.

The Central Government raised certain other questions before the Labour Ministers' Conference.

Adequate Factory Inspection

A suggestion was made that immediate steps should be taken to strengthen the Factory Inspection Service so that each inspector might be made responsible for the inspection of not more than 150 factories a year and that the Provinces should agree to a joint Cadre of factory inspectors administered from the Centre. This Government agreed to enlarge its Factory Inspectorate as desired by the Government of India, but declined to participate in the central pool. They, however, agreed to depute their officers to the Central Institute for refresher courses and to take part in the proposed Central Industrial Museum.

Commission to Enquire into Industrial Unrest

(2) Apropos a suggestion a commission might be appointed to enquire into the causes of industrial unrest, the Hon'ble Minister from Madras explained that these causes were well known and that he did not consider it necessary to proceed with the proposed enquiry. This suggestion was accepted by all the other Ministers.

Training Facilities for Workers

3. The Central Government proposed that there should be proper training both of a vocational and an apprenticeable nature to promote efficiency, and suggested that the progress of industrial training would be accelerated if schemes for adult education were undertaken on a large scale. They also proposed the prescription of trade tests for promotion. This Government agreed with these suggestions.

Revision of Workmen's Compensation Act

4. The Central Government proposed that the Workmen's Compensation Act should be amended with a view to extending to other classes of workers

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IRRIGATION SCHEMES OF MADRAS GOVERNMENT

OVER RS. 160 CRORES TO BE SPENT IN 10 YEARS

In the post-war plans of the Madras Government, as in those of some other provinces, the execution of a number of irrigation projects occupies a conspicuous place. The Government's irrigation works programme, of which the construction of a number of major and minor irrigation projects forms an integral part, has as its long-term objective the making of the province self-sufficient in regard to food. Rice is the staple food of the population of Madras, but the province does not grow enough of that commodity to enable the 50 and odd millions of its present population to have a ration of 1½ lbs. per adult, which is the minimum required for keeping him at a reasonable level of health. The area under rice cultivation in Madras province was about 10,700,000 acres in 1944-45 and the yield of rice in that year had been estimated at about 49,090,000 tons. This yield is much below the total quantity required, which is about 7 million tons, to ensure to the present population of 51 millions the quantity of ration mentioned. Allowing for a further increase in the presidency's population up to 54 millions in 1951, the quantity of rice required to feed it will be in the neighbourhood of 7.4 million tons. This means that a deficit of over 2 million tons of rice has to be made good to provide a normal ration for the present population subsisting on rice and about 2½ million tons to meet the demand of the anticipated increase population in 1951.

Fore-Armed and Forewarned

The Government's post-war irrigation plans have been formulated with the province's needs in this respect in the forefront. They are based on the exceedingly sound principle that to be forearmed in a matter like food and to be forewarned against probable shortages in future is prudent and wise. It may be pointed out here that the level of rice production in the province has been more or less constant for the last 15 years. Twenty-five years back, the province was probably self-sufficient with regard to her rice requirements, but in recent years the gap between production and consumption has been gradually widening. At present, the gap has assumed the proportions of a chasm, which can, if at all, be bridged only by imports from abroad or from other provinces or by cutting down the ration to a subnormal figure. Some considerable addition to food stocks in the province is indeed possible by the introduction of improved cultivation methods and by

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the benefits provided under the Health Insurance Scheme in respect of disablement and dependent's benefits. This proposal was accepted.

Industrial Houses

5. This subject was included in the Government of India's Five-Year Plan and envisages a long term and a short term plan.

The short term plan is intended to provide immediate employment to workers. It is proposed that the maximum number of houses possible should be constructed in 1946-47 and 1947-48. A Housing Commissioner would be appointed by the Central Government to advise on the housing schemes of Provinces. The Government of India would make a grant of 12½ per cent of the cost of building each house subject to a maximum of Rs. 200 in each case, provided the Provincial Government were prepared to make an equal grant. This offer was based on an estimated cost of Rs. 1,300 per house but as no house can now be built for this amount, the Government of India were requested to send us further proposals after consideration.

The long term plan aims at a target of one lakh of houses for Madras. The acceptability or otherwise of this plan depends on the revised estimate.

The Health Insurance Bill

6. The Government of India proposes to introduce comprehensive legislation to ensure minimum health standards for labour. The bill provides for the construction of a Workmen's State Insurance Corporation with an Advisory Central Board, Standing Committees and a Medical Benefit Council.

The contributions to be made through the Provincial Governments from the Workmen's State Insurance Fund will be according to the agreement reached between the State Insurance Corporation and the Provincial Governments. The contribution of the Provincial Government will also be in accordance with a similar agreement. It was roughly indicated at the conference that the cost per insured worker would be Rs. 6 of which the Corporation would give Rs. 4 leaving the balance of Rs. 2 to be contribution by Provincial Governments. This Government has undertaken to examine the bill in detail and send its considered opinion at an early date.

The Central Government also announced its intention to revise the Mines Act and introduce legislation to replace the Ordinance constituting the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. They also invited our views regarding the furtherance of employment exchange services. The Hon'ble Ministers of Madras and of certain other Provinces wanted employment exchange services to be available to all classes and kinds if labour and not to be confined to ex-servicemen. This was agreed to, but a further proposal that employment exchanges should be placed under the control of Provincial Governments was deferred for consideration at a later stage, after employment exchanges have been put on a sound footing and have begun to work more satisfactorily than at present.

better manuring of the lands and so on, but they do not solve the basic problem of short and irregular water-supply for irrigation purposes, which has provided the basis for the well-known saying that Indian agriculture is a gamble in rain. The gap can be effectively and permanently filled up only by systematic development of irrigation facilities aimed at bringing an area of 4 to 5 millions of additional acreage under the rice crop.

Expert opinion has expressed itself against the possibility of making particular districts self-sufficient or to confine future projects only to deficit districts. The availability of water and the ground, soil, geographical and meteorological features of the tracts, which have considerable bearing on the development of irrigation schemes, have to be taken into consideration. The Madras Government's ten-year irrigation plan has been formulated after considering all these relevant factors.

Three Categories

The Government's irrigation projects are classified into 3 categories—i.e. major irrigation schemes intended to bring under cultivation over a lakh of acres, middle-sized irrigation schemes covering areas between 10,000 and 100,000 acres and minor schemes intended to cultivate less the 10,000 acres. The majority of the schemes naturally falls under the third category and the total area that is likely to benefit from them will be 3.7 lakhs of acres. The middle-sized schemes are expected to benefit about 4.6 lakhs acres. Under the major schemes, the most important one is the Ramapadasagar scheme for utilising the flow of the river Godavari to irrigate an extent of about 2.3 million acres lying in the Vizagapatam, Godavari, Kistna and Guntur districts. Ramapadasagar, in fact, takes rank among the biggest and grandest of irrigation projects conceived anywhere, and while its full potentialities are still under investigation, its estimated cost is about Rs. 66 crores. Among other major schemes are the Thungabhadra, the Lower Bhavani and the Gandikota schemes, which will be beneficial mainly for the irrigation of dry crops, such as millets and cotton, on about 600,000 acres. The total area that will be covered by the various projects, big and small, has been tentatively estimated to be 3.4 million acres for the whole province of Madras, but even so the total yield of rice after all of them attain fruition may still require a million more acres to be brought under the plough to satisfy the requirements of the population, as it will be in 1951.

This inevitably points to the need for exploring other avenues and means for the filling up of the gap in food resources, and in this connection a suggestion has been put forward that side by side with Ramapadasagar, a project for utilising the waters of the river Kistna also should be undertaken. It has been estimated that if the Kistna project is taken up immediately, it should be possible to irrigate from 2 to 2.5 million acres thereby. In the promotion of self-sufficiency in the food programme, the scheme should contribute very substantially.

Hurdles in the Path

It may be mentioned here that one of the major hurdles in the path of the finalisation of these projects is the political one. While engineering difficulties of a purely constructional character can be largely solved with developments in modern engineering methods and research, the lack of water supplies and the political difficulties involved in negotiating with zamindars, and sovereign States like Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore for the utilisation of the waters of the rivers which flow through their territories remain. These have to be tackled earnestly and quickly to ensure satisfactory results. So far as the two major projects of Tungabhadra and Ramapadasagar are concerned, negotiations for an understanding between the Madras and the Hyderabad Governments may be stated to have been crowned with success, as a result of the conference held at ministerial level in Hyderabad in the middle of October, 1946, so that the prospect of the Madras Government proceeding with the further steps necessary in that connection has brightened up.

Government Determined

The fundamental consideration before Government as has been mentioned already is to increase the food supply in the province so that conditions such as those which supervened during the war years and have continued thereafter may not persist hereafter or arise in the future. The need is to make the province as fully self-sufficient as possible and there is no reason why the ideal should be unrealisable when facilities in the shape of immense water resources exist. That the Government are determined to achieve this end is unquestionable and they are making every effort to expedite the investigation of the various schemes, take them on to the execution stage and ensure their completion at an early date. Finance is a difficult proposition and may even appear a formidable obstacle; but as H.E. Sir Archibald Nye, the Governor of Madras, said recently in a speech at Trichinopoly, it will not be allowed to be an insurmountable obstacle to the execution of any scheme, the purpose of which is to augment food production and the potentialities of which in that regard are obvious.

Estimated Costs

It may be pointed out here that the estimated cost of the Thungabhadra project is Rs. 10 crores and that of Ramapadasagar Rs. 66 crores. The Kistna project, if it is undertaken, may involve a cost of Rs. 50 crores. The other major and minor projects, excluding the above, are expected to cost Rs. 36 crores, which means, in other words, a cost of Rs. 500 per acre. On the smaller and minor projects, the cost per acre will inevitably be higher and may well be about 1½ times to 2 times that of one major project. On the other hand, it has been officially estimated that, for irrigating an additional six million acres, the cost on all projects under contemplation, including major and minor, will be Rs. 162 crores or about Rs. 270 per acre. If the value of the anticipated increased production of rice is estimated at Rs. 100 per ton, the total income from the crop will amount to Rs. 30 crores per year. In other words, the capital expenditure on the projects will have been recovered in about five or six years' time and the schemes will begin to yield a return in about 10 years.

Finance—No Bogey

While the direct benefits derivable from the irrigation projects by the agriculturists in particular and the province in general, are thus indubitable, it will be seen that the financial implications need not be

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PLAN TO RAISE STANDARD OF LIVING OF VILLAGES

KRISHNAMACHARI COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Raising of the standard of living of the agricultural population to the highest possible level is the objective of the recommendations of the Prices Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, presided over by Sir V. T. Krishnamachari.

The committee recommends that the State should (i) guarantee minimum remunerative prices for selected agricultural commodities and ensure that benefits thereof reach the small cultivators and agricultural labourers; (ii) prevent the prices of such commodities from exceeding specified maxima, granting relief to persons with low incomes by subsidies on consumption, and (iii) undertake simultaneously a wide variety of other measures of agricultural and general economic development, accompanied by a complementary policy for maintaining adequate employment, income and purchasing power.

Fixing of Fair Prices

The committee has laid down specific provisions for determining fair prices and maximum and minimum prices of agricultural commodities. The maximum and minimum prices, the committee says, should be enforced by the State by regulating the internal and foreign trade, rents and wages, acreage under crops, building up of reserve stocks etc. The policy of price fixation should be applicable to major food crops—rice, wheat, jowar, and bajra—and major commercial crops—cotton, jute and sugarcane. The prices of animal husbandry products should be regulated on a regional basis by provincial and State Governments. Early steps should be taken to provide adequate cold storage facilities and refrigerated transport for such products.

The committee has recommended the setting up of the following administrative machinery for carrying out its recommendations:

An All-India Agricultural Prices Council to lay down price policy with a Price Determination Commission to fix minimum and maximum prices and a Committee Corporation to enforce these prices and a bureau of economics and statistics for collection, analysis and interpretation of necessary data.

Administrative Set-up

Pending implementation of these recommendations, the Government, the committee suggests, should, without delay (a) establish a bureau of economics and statistics for the collection of reliable data, (b) procure the necessary reserve stocks of the food grains selected for price fixation, namely rice, wheat, jowar and bajra, (c) construct the necessary storage accommodation, (d) select in collaboration with provinces and States suitable trade or other agencies for carrying out purchase and sale operations, and (e) appoint a small skeleton staff for the work in connection with the setting up of the All-India Agricultural Prices Council.

Until the administrative machinery is established, the system of work developed by the different Governments should be continued with such modifications as may be necessary in the light of the principles recommended.

Concerted Action Necessary

In a statement, Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Chairman of the committee, says: "The aim is to raise to the highest possible level the standard of living of all classes of the population dependent on agriculture. This can only be achieved by all the Governments in India steadily pursuing a dynamic policy of revitalizing all the inter-related sides of rural life—a policy which will radically change the outlook of the villager and give him the will to live better."

The report envisages a wide and varied programme of development to be organized and executed with substantial Government assistance, to produce an "economy of abundance." The committee emphasizes that isolated measures will prove ineffective and that action should be taken simultaneously on all fronts and all financial and other resources available to the Governments should be mobilized in support of the policy.

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elevated into a bogey. There will be considerable increase in the public revenue from land revenue while the indirect benefits to the province from sales tax, income-tax etc. will be substantial. The inherent capacity of these projects to pay their way in a short period of time being assured, the method of financing them need not cause much concern and it has been suggested that they can be financed from both current revenues and loans. As the programme of work will be spread over 10 years, experts have estimated that the amount to be found every year should not at all be beyond the resources of the local Government.

RESETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE PROVINCE

Among the many problems confronting India today, one of the most pressing is the demobilisation of soldiers and their prompt, orderly absorption in civil life. Of all the countries who have set their faces towards post-war reconstruction, India offers unique scope for development. The men returning from service constitute a considerable national asset of the country. Their contacts with other countries, their training in new methods of organisation and techniques of production, if utiilised to the maximum to exploit all our potentialities and resources, will take India to the front rank with the most progressive countries of the world.

In order to tackle the problem of re-settlement on scientific lines, a Re-settlement and Employment Directorate was set up in 1945. The object of the Re-settlement and Employment organisations is to bring together the employees and the employers so as to facilitate mobility of labour both occupational and geographical, and to organise programmes of vocational and technical training so as to meet the deficiencies in skilled labour.

A network of 71 Employment Exchanges including a Central Employment Exchange in New Delhi, is being established throughout the country. The managerial staff has been specially trained under an experienced officer whose services are borrowed from the Ministry of Labour and National Service in the U.K. Special mention may be made of the scheme for the Rehabilitation and Re-settlement of disabled service personnel which aim at equiping disabled persons to undertake the most skilled work of which they are capable and thereby enabling them to take their place in society. Ex-servicewomen are given free training facilities in a number of trades and occupations suited for women. A Regional Employment Advisory Committee has been set up consisting of representatives of the Provincial Governments, Universities and other local bodies, to associate the public as fully as possible with the work of the Re-settlement and Employment Organisation.

Although the Resettlement and Employment is primarily intended to facilitate the resettlement in civil life of demobs, its scope will be extended to all categories of employment seekers. This is the first time in the history of the country that the free service of an integrated all-India organisation is established for the purpose of securing jobs to the unemployed.

Report From Districts

The following is a brief report of the progress in re-settlement in the various districts of the province of Madras.

Guntur

726 Ex-servicemen have been employed out of 2,621 demobs who returned to the district. There are three colonisation schemes for ex-servicemen at Piduguralla, Allur, and Nizampatam. Bapatla (500 acres) in Piduguralla village has been surveyed. House sites have been selected and laid out in lots. The scheme to sink irrigation wells in each holding has been dropped owing to high cost. The extent of arable land available in Allur colony is 842 acres out of which Government propose to irrigate 300 acres pending the sanction of the Chief Engineer; house sites have been selected and laid out. The colony will be started from next year. The 1,500 acres in Nizampatam colony are mostly low land fit for wet cultivation. The colony will be started as soon as irrigation facilities are provided by the P.W.D.

Madura

100 Ex-servicemen have been employed during the month of October 1946 out of 394 registered.

Ramanad

The number of men recruited from the district is 15,297 out of which 2,004 registered and 527 are employed. The proposal to run a soldiers' club at Srivilliputtur at an estimated cost of Rs. 40,000 is pending the sanction of the Superintending Engineer, Trichinopoly.

North Arcot

Employment has been secured for 537 Ex-servicemen during the fortnight ending 31-10-46. An extent of 3,703 acres in Sennaleri and Enadavadi reserves has been dis-afforested to provide housing for 200 families. Six houses have been completed in "A" Colony. An Agriculture Land Colonisation Society has been formed with ten ex-servicemen as members. Eight acres of land have been allotted to each and arrangements have been made for starting cultivation. The Government have sanctioned the establishment of a co-operative metal and timber workshop and a training centre for metal and timber works in Katpadi village. The centre is likely to start work on 1st December.

Salem

Ex-servicemen are appointed in the reserved vacancies in several Government departments. They are also recommended to private and public employers, such as mill managers, bus service proprietors, etc. There are two land colonisation schemes in Salem District under preparation, namely Manivilandan and Perunalkuppam. The extent of the Manivilandan colony is about 3,000 acres. It provides housing for 250 families at the rate of 10 acres each. The houses are under construction with provision for drinking-water wells and other amenities. The colony is connected by road and railway. 1,300 acres have been cleared of jungle growth in Perumalkuppam and anti-malarial operations started. Test wells sunk for irrigation and drinking water met with success. One ex-servicemen centre was opened at Krishnagiri by His Excellency the Governor of Madras on 15-12-46 and another centre will be opened at Salem as soon as the necessary buildings are secured.

Nellore

49 ex-servicemen have been registered, of whom 11 were contacted by the Resettlement Officer in his tours, during the fortnight ending 31-10-46.

16 ex-servicemen have been placed in employment of whom 8 have been placed as clerks and 8 as peons.

The two colonisation schemes proposed for this district at Veligandla and Chintaldevi villages are pending approval by Government.

Trichinopoly

From the date of opening of the Re-settlement Section of this D.S.S. & A. Board, Trichy, in September 1945, 1,734 ex-servicemen have been registered for employment up to the end of 31-10-46. Out of these 297 persons have been placed in employment in Government and other offices, through this office. The rest could not be provided for want of vacancies.

Out of the 114 applications received for membership in the land colonization scheme, 18 ex-servicemen have so far been selected as members. The colony is likely to be started soon at Nedialur, in Kulitalai Taluk.

Nilgiris

The Re-settlement Office was set up in Ootacamund in November, 1945. During the period from November, 1945, to October, 1946, out of 939 men registered 357 men have been placed in Government and private jobs. 13 have started their own business. The balance now remaining to be placed is 269.

Cuddapah

Out of 1,173 persons registered 259 have been placed in Government and other jobs. The appointment so far made in Government posts is temporary, in acting vacancies.

The Special Assistant, Ex-Servicemen Resettlement, toured in Proddatur, Jammalamadugu, Pulivendla, Rajampet and Kamalapuram taluks, contacted the ex-servicemen and gave them suitable advice and instructions.

The land colony at Pullampet is being got ready. Trial borings have been made for six wells. Two irrigation wells and one drinking water well are under execution. 22 applications for membership in the Land Colonisation Co-operative Society have been received.

Chingleput

Ex-servicemen are being interviewed by the Special Assistant at convenient centres and at district headquarters, and registered for employment. 1,466 persons were registered up to the end of September 1946 and 377 persons were registered in October 1946. The total number of persons placed in civil employment upto the end of October is 341.

The Meyyur Guddapakkam Ex-Servicemen's Co-operative Agricultural Colonisation Society Ltd. owns a colony covering an area of 674.20 acres which was a panchayat forest previously. Out of this extent 61.40 acres have been classed as wet and 436.60 acres as dry. These extents are set apart for cultivation through colonists who should be ex-servicemen. 30 colonists have been selected for membership in this colony. An extent of 28 acres has been set apart for village site with provision for school, park and maidan. 15 houses have been constructed for the colonists and 2 drinking water wells.

The colony was registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. 18 ex-servicemen who have paid share capital and entrance fee were admitted as members and 12 of them were present on the date of opening of the colony. The colonists present were each allotted a block of 5 acres of dry land. Special steps are being taken to see that all the colonists selected reside in the colony and cultivate the extent allotted to them in this season itself.

Kurnool

An extent of 473.38 acres is available for the colonisation of ex-servicemen in Rudravaram and it was proposed to settle 80 colonists at the rate of 5½ acres to each colonist. Lay-out plans to settle 80 colonists have been prepared. 59 candidates have so far been provisionally selected for admission into the colony. Steps are being taken to start the colony as early as possible.

Roughly about an extent of 350 acres has been reserved to settle 50 colonists in Rackerla. The entire block has been divided into 3 plots, A, B & C and three hand boring sets, one in each plot, are working and work is in progress.

Madras

Total number of ex-servicemen registered up to the end of September 1946 is 3,966. Out of this it was found possible to secure employment for 772. In the month of October 826 men got their names registered and employment was found for 188 men during the month.

From out of the discharged men who applied before the end of February 1946 for posts within the purview of the Public Services Commission, 32 were selected by the Services Commission against reserved vacancies.

As regards the vacancies outside the purview of the Services Commission one candidate was selected to the post of a Dam Superintendent.

In connection with the recruitment of police constables in the Madras City Police, an Assistant Commissioner of Police makes selection in the office of the Special Assistant on Tuesdays and Fridays every week. Though a large number of them are required sufficient number of men with the requisite qualifications are not forthcoming.

Technical training schemes, Co-operative workshops, Labour contract society etc., established for ex-servicemen are under the control of the Director of Re-settlement and Employment.

There is no Land Colonization Scheme in the City of Madras.

Coimbatore

Out of 3,212 ex-servicemen registered, a total of 963 are employed.

The Sinnakalpalayam Land Colony was opened on 12-10-46. 30 men have been admitted in this colony. Two temporary sheds have been constructed for accommodating 20 families while 10 are accommodated in houses. A Senior Co-operative Inspector has been specially appointed as the Secretary. The bulldozer with the Research Engineer, Coimbatore, has been brought to the colony and is reclaiming the land, forming the bunds and ploughing. Out of a total extent of 150 acres, 120 acres have been cleared of jungle growth by the colonisits themselves and 80 acres out of these have been ploughed with hired bulls. Cholam has been raised to an extent of 20 acres. The remaining 60 acres will be sowed with cholam in a week. The remaining 30 acres are being attended to by the concerned colonist. On the whole the colonists appear to be satisfied. They are however pressing for the supply of building materials and funds for proceeding further with the lands. Separate references are being made about these.

The revised proposals in respect of the Ganapathy & D. M. Samudram colonies have been submitted to Government. The bulldozer after finishing the work in Sinnakalpalayam land colony will be moved to Ganapthy colony where much reclamation has to be done. An executive committee of the ex-services centre met on 17-10-1946 and framed rules for setting up a club.

Tanjore

This district has recruited nearly 19,000 men for war service of whom about 10,000 men may be expected to be discharged from military service. To advise these war-returned men and to resettle them in civil life, the Government have appointed Special Officers. Experience reveals that the ex-servicemen are very particular of getting jobs of their own choice. The preference of ex-servicemen is mostly for peons' jobs and jobs in the Railways. As this district is only an agricultural district devoid of any industrial enterprises or commercial firms, the Re-settlement Agency is confronted with great difficulty in finding jobs for all the demobilised personnel. But efforts are being taken to re-settle them as quickly as possible.

Up to the end of October 1946, 3,714 ex-servicemen have returned to the district and have registered with the Special Assistant. Of these persons, 1,925 have applied for technical jobs and jobs in the Railways. Ex-servicemen have also been selected for the several training courses sanctioned by Government. The Madras Public Services Commission has selected only 11 candidates for the reserved vacancies.

The following are the three special schemes working in this district:

The Co-operative Metal Factory at Kumbakonam is established mainly to employ ex-servicemen. There are now 60 ex-servicemen working in it, of whom 53 persons belong to this district. The Labour Contract Society affords an excellent opportunity to the illiterate, unskilled and labour categories of the ex-military personnel. The society was specially sanctioned in connection with the extension of Narasinga Cauvery Channel. The approximate cost of the scheme is Rs. 3,50,000.

The Land Colony Society for the land colonisation scheme at Tirumangalakottai has been started and 29 members have been enlisted. Some of the colonists have raised Kuruvai crops which are being harvested now. The rest have prepared the land for samba cultivation and transplantation is in progress. English and Tamil dailies and weeklies have been made available for the ex-servicemen in the Recreation Room of the Ex-Servicemen's Centre.

Vizagapatam

Re-settlement of ex-servicemen commenced in this district in October 1945. The number of candidates registered and employed in the Special Assistant's office and in the Sub-Regional Exchange, Vizagapatam is noted below:

	Registration	Placings
Special Assistant's office. ..	2,522	604
Sub-Regional Exchange. ..	6,408	1,346

Out of the balance waiting for employment in the Special Assistant's registers and 5,062 in Sub-Regional Exchange, there are few candidates who are qualified to hold any job in the Government departments. Most of them are illiterate and are unwilling to work as labourers. Efforts are however being made to find employment for them also.

Besides finding employment for the ex-servicemen in Government and other offices, the following schemes have been taken up in this district for the re-settlement of ex-servicemen.

(i) Co-operative Labour Contract Society.
(ii) Co-operative Metal and Timber Factories.
(iii) Co-operative Bricks and Tiles Factory.
(iv) Kalavalapalli Flood Bank Labour Camp opened by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Vizagapatam South.
(v) Land Colonization Scheme at Korukonda.

(i) Co-operative Labour Contract Society:—A Co-operative Labour Contract Society which has been opened at Vizagapatam has so far enrolled 104 ex-servicemen as its members and is employing them on the works taken by it on contract on daily wages ranging from Re. 1 to Re. 1-8-0. The Society has so far made a profit of Rs. 2,133-15-7. This profit will be distributed to the members in due course.

(ii) *Co-operative Metal and Timber Factories:*—The Government of Madras purchased the N.A.O.R. buildings of the R.A.F. near Duvvada in this district at a cost of Rs. 40,000 and opened Co-operative Metal and Co-operative Timber Factories in these buildings. Ex-servicemen who worked as tinsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, and moulders while in the army are eligible to become members of the Co-operative Societies attached to the factories and find employment in the factories. Lay ex-servicemen also can become members of the Societies. They will be trained in the factories by the Master-Smiths specially employed for the purpose. So far 50 ex-servicemen joined as members of the Co-operative Metal Factory 46, ex-servicemen joined as members of the Co-operative Timber Factory. The factories have just commenced work and a detailed report about their working will be published later.

(iii) *Co-operative Bricks and Tiles Factory*—The Government have sanctioned the opening of a co-operative bricks and tiles factory in this district.

(iv) *Kalavalapalli Labour Camp*:—Though this district has contributed nearly 20,000 recruits for the war, most of them are illiterate labourers. They worked in the M.C.L.U. and other units as labourers. With a view to provide work for such people, the Executive Engineer, Vizagapatam South, has taken up the repairs to the Gokivada Gedda Flood Bank in Kalavalapalli village of Yellamanchili Taluk departmentally, and agreed to employ the ex-servicemen as labourers on daily wages. The rates of wages for a male, female and child are As. 12-14, As. 8 and As. 6 respectively. Ex-servicemen are given the benefit of going to the camp with their family members who can also find work. Huts have been constructed by the P.W.D. on the work spot and accommodation in these huts is being given freely. However, the ex-servicemen are not very enthusiastic in doing cooly work. So far, about 80 ex-servicemen only have gone there. Efforts are being made to send more.

(v) *Land Colonization*:—A land colony has been proposed to be opened between Korukonda and Alamenda village in this district for settling about 60 ex-servicemen. The Director of Resettlement and Employment is examining the proposal and orders of the Government are expected shortly.

GOVT. MUSEUM AND CONNEMARA LIBRARY

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The following are extracts from the Administration Report of the Government Museum and Connemara Public Library, Madras, for the year 1945-46.

Museum

"On the cessation of hostilities, four of our buildings which had been commandeered by the Civil Defence authorities were handed over to us, and the exhibits which were stored away for safety in other buildings were restored to their places. The most valuable among our collections, such as the bronzes, pictures, coins, etc., were brought back from Cuddapah, Anantapur and Salem, as also a number of cases of zoological collections, from Tambaram. By the end of 1945, the Museum galleries were more or less completely restored to their pre-war state and opened to the public.

Annual Meeting of Museums Association of India

"The annual meeting of the Museums Association of India was held at the Museum Theatre on December 31, 1945, and January 1, 1946. This opportunity was used to hold a special exhibition of Tanjore laces, coins and sculptures and paintings by Mr. D. P. Roy Chowdhury, M.B.E., Principal of the Government School of Arts and Crafts.

Work in Scientific Sections

"Zoology—A portion of the vertebral column of a whale consisting of about a dozen large vertebrae, and a fairly large series of the skeletal remains of various animals exhumed from the Madras Zoo were added to our skeletal collections. A fresh specimen of the large Indian fruit bat *(Pteropus giganticus)*, was stuffed and put up in the gallery to replace an old and deteriorating specimen. Among birds, one specimen of the spotted crake *(Porzana Mauretta)*, one of the red-winged crested cuckoo *Clamator Coramandus)*, and one of the rufus-backed shrike, *(Lancius erythronotus)*, were procured, stuffed and mounted; a set of about half a dozen wild duck-skins, including those of the Pochard and the Spot-bill, and one of the Caspian Tern, shot at Tiruvallur, were presented by F/O. H.G. Lumsden of the R.A.F. A greyish black egg of a duck—presumably a freak —was procured from a villager, preserved and added to our study collection of birds' eggs. One large specimen of the land tortoise *(Testudo radiata)*, and a small one of the fresh water tortoise, were presented by Lieut.-Commander Jagan Mohan. A few fresh fishes, including, among others, a hammer-headed shark and a young shark saw-fish, were procured and plaster models of these are being prepared. Among invertebrates, a large specimen of the nudibranch, *(Kalinga ornata)*, presented by Dr. Joshua, was preserved. In connection with the proposed scheme for making a special exhibition of "Recent Additions", a young one of the tiger shark *(Stegostoma tigrinum)*, a specimen of the star-fish *(Pantaceros herdmanni)*, together with an abnormal six-armed variety of the same, and a growth series of the feather shell *(Pinna pectinata)*, have been recently mounted with brief descriptive labels.

"A photograph showing the Indian elephant suckling was framed and put up in the mammal gallery. Four photographs showing the stages in the capture of an insect by a trap-door spider were added to the sectional album. A photograph of the glass-rope sponge *(Hyalonema)*, was framed and exhibited in the coral gallery.

"Ethnology and pre-historic archaeology.—The rearrangement and exhibition of the ornaments in the South Indian jewellery cases which was in progress has been completed. The ornaments of the Syrian Christian and the Nambudiri Brahmans have been rearranged and exhibited.

"A new glass case was made to exhibit the model of a Lambadi woman. The very old model is being renovated for exhibiting the very characteristic dress and ornaments.

"The curator is working on the racial differences exhibited by palmar prints. A study of the social and physical anthropology of the Malayalis of the Shevaroy Hills is contemplated and the field work is to be conducted shortly under the guidance of the Superintendent.

"Botany and Geology.—The reorganisation of the Economic Gallery was continued. Two full-grown ganja plants were procured from the Goverment ganja plantations for exhibition purposes. Arrangements have been made to procure pyrethrum, tobacco, pandanus fibre articles, mats and medicinal plants.

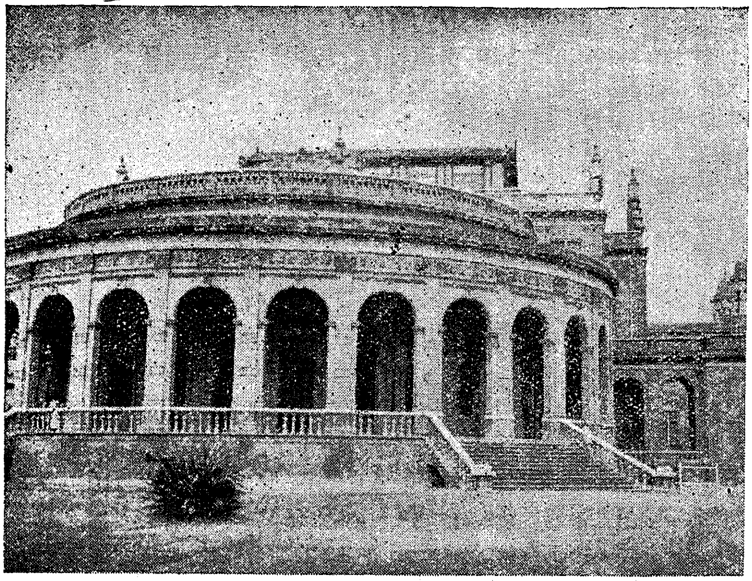
"A set of 30 articles made of fireclay, received from the Kolar Brick-making Company, Marikuppam, Mysore State, has been added to the Geological Section.

" The Curator's research on algae from Mahabalipuram is continued. A large number of his collections of marine algae is classified and kept in the reserve collection for research work.

"Archaeology and Art.—During the year, 83 metal images and 2 stone images were acquired from treasure-trove finds. Other acquisitions are—(1) five copper-plate grants sent by the Government Epigraphist, Ootacamund, for deposit in this Museum, (2) two paintings belonging to the old Rajput painting school, (3) a sword-guard and nine Chinese temple scrolls from Professor E. E. Speight, Ootacamund, and (4) two paintings from Kalakshetra, Adyar.

Numismatics.—The toal number of coins acquired during the year was 500. Of these, 464 were gold, 31 silver and 5 bronze. The last five are ancient Chinese coins purchased from Professor E.E. Speight and can be considered to be the most interesting acquisition of the year, for they throw considerable light on the evolution of coinage. One of these five Chinese coins, according to Pro. P.C. Bachi, of the Cheena Bhawa of Santiniketan, who very kindly examined and reported upon the coins, is of the 5th century B. C., and, therefore, older than any other coin which this Museum possesses.

(contd. in the next page.)



The Museum Theatre which forms the front view of the Museum Building.

MUSEUMS

By Dr. A. Ayyappan

A Book of Knowledge

In general terms, the purpose of museums is "to raise the general level of refinement by giving pleasure and imparting knowledge". Objects of artistic excellence, objects of historical and high sentimental value, and objects that satisfy our native curiosity about our environment, assembled in a beautiful setting and displayed with appropriate descriptive labels, seldom fail to elevate the mind and widen the receptive individual's mental horizon. Though they are not educational institutions in the narrow sense of the term, museums subserve an educational function in an indirect manner. A good museum is a book of knowledge with the exhibits forming the illustrations and the labels constituting the letter-press. No museum, not even the largest can hope to have within its four walls the full range of exhibits to cover the whole world or the hundreds of subjects deserving attention. For the sake of efficiency and manageability, museums, therefore have to specialise in subjects for which they have natural advantages, and limit their field to geographical regions in which they are specially interested.

Museum Development in Madras

To the Goverment of Madras goes the credit of starting the first provincial museum in the whole of India. "With the object of storing up in some one place the knowledge and material which had been acquired by investigators working in different parts of the Peninsula and with the object of fostering scientific inquiry and pursuits", the Governor of Fort St. George, in 1846, accepted the offer of the small collection of the Madras Literary Society which formed the nucleus of the Madras Central Museum opened at the College in Fort St. George in 1851. In 1856, the Central Museum had six branch museums established at Bellary, Cuddalore, Coimbatore, Mangalore, Ootacamund and Rajamundry. The branch museums, popular during the few initial years languished later for want of full-time officials to be in charge of them and had to be closed. The Central Museum at Madras developed rapidly into the largest provincial museum in India, which position it maintains even today. In the earlier years of the Madras Museum, its chief interest was in the natural resources of the Province and in its flora and fauna and ethnology. Surveys, for example, were carried out of the existence of iron

(contd. from the previous page.)

Educational Work

"Museum demonstrations in Botany, Zoology, Archeology and Anthropology were arranged for 162 teachers belonging to 17 Indian boys' schools, 2 Indian girls' schools and 2 European schools.

"Pupils from 3 colleges in the City and one from the mofussil, 108 high schools of the City and 39 schools from the mofussil were brought to the Museum by their teachers, the total number of pupils being 7,200 and of teachers 382.

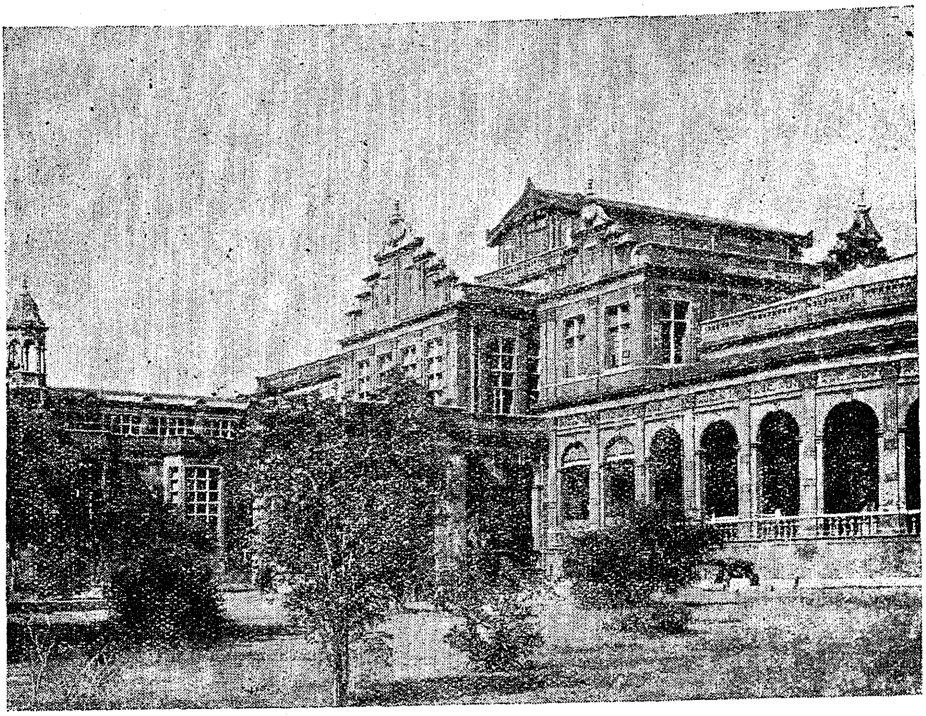
"Facilities for conducting research were afforded to students from different parts of India.

Connemara Public Library

"The total number of books added to the Library during the year, apart from periodicals, was 724. The supply of books and periodicals from outside India was irregular for the most part of the year under review, but towards the end of the year, the supply has been fairly regular as a result of the cessation of hostilities.

"The number of institutions sending their journals in exchange for the Museum bulletins was 240.

"The number of readers who visited the library during the year was 52,289 as compared with 50,022 of the previous year and the number of volumes consulted was 157,140 compared with 102,166 of the previous year. 50,380 volumes, as compared with 47,972 during the previous year, were lent to the residents in the city and its vicinity. The number of volumes lent to the mofussil libraries during the year was 28. Two mofussil libraries, viz. (1) Edward Coronation Reading Room, Dharmavaram, and (2) Kurnool Municipal Public Library and Reading Room, Kurool, were affiliated to the Connemara Public Library during the year for the purposes of borrowing books from this library.



A side view of the Museum Buildings.

ores, coal, building stones, etc., and the results were published by the Madras Museum in the earliest years of its history. Interesting experiments were conducted on sylvicultural problems, some of the exotic trees now standing on the Museum grounds being the relics of such experiments. The Madras Museum now has galleries devoted to Botany and Economic Products, Geology, Zoology, Archæology, Arts and Crafts of S. India, Ethnology, Prehistory, and Numismatics. The collection of pictures is small, but this is also being slowly built up.

Unique among the collections are the Buddhist sculptures from Amaravati which according to Fergusson are the best sculptures of ancient India. The Madras Museum is also famous all the world over for its collection of Hindu Metal images among which are included the figures of the dancing Siva.

POPULAR GOVTS. ENTHUSIASTIC

Contrary to the expectations of some western Indophobes, when popular governments took over the administration in several Indian provinces in 1937, they were eager to use museums as handy instruments to aid them in the economic and cultural rehabilitation of the country. The Ministers for Public Health and Industries in this Province were both enthusiastic about promoting museums. The first privately endowed museum in India, namely, the Arts and Crafts Museum of Wardha came into being at this time. In his presidential address to the National Academy of Sciences, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made a special plea for the formation of museums for the benefit of the masses of India. He said:

"I should like an aggressive and widespread tackling of our problems by experts. I should like permanent museums for the education of our masses, especially the peasantry, to grow up in every district. I remember the wonderful peasant museums that I saw in the U.S.S.R., and I compare them with the pitiful agricultural exhibitions that are organised here from time to time."

Exhibitions of the kind referred to by Pandit Nehru, which have become the fashion today, contain, however, the germs of many future museums. The museum idea has come to stay in this country and there is no doubt that, in the near future, the number of museums will multiply and their activities would become manifold.

FOUR-FOLD FUNCTIONS

Museums which, to begin with, were store houses of curiosities have more and more varied functions devolved upon them. These fall under the four heads (a) collection and conservation, (b) research, (c) visual education, and (d) aesthetic enjoyment.

Objects of scientific historical and artistic interest and importance have to be judiciously collected by museums for the use of the present and future generations. Collections in some fields are often an urgent necessity as they tend to disappear and get lost for ever to posterity if not collected in time and preserved in museums. The proper preservation of such valuable material to ensure them the longest lease of life is a task that requires constant vigilance. Specimens accumulated in museums are of little value to the public if they are not properly interpreted and the knowledge relating to them published. This requires that museums should be

institutions where active research is conducted. The third function of museums, namely that of providing visual education, has assumed great importance within the last two decades, particularly in the United States of America, where the larger museums have departments for visual education presided over by experts in education who cater to the needs of schools through their school service organisations, and to the needs of adults through the scientific and psychological devices invented to aid the educationists. The fourth function of museums and art galleries is the provision of facilities to the public for aesthetic enjoyment. This duty to the public is all the more important in an economically backward country such as ours where the number of people who can own pictures and sculptures is negligibly small, and museums are the only places where they can hope to see works of art.

Mahishasura Mardhini—
An exhibit in the Gallery.

EDUCATIONAL WORK IN MADRAS MUSEUM

Under existing conditions, with their limited staff and resources, few museums in India are in a position to do much in the form of school service, nor are they in a position to circulate collections that would more or less follow the school syllabus. The Madras Museum maintains contact with the teachers of the city schools through "Demonstrations to teachers". Every year, during the cold season, batches of twelve to eighteen teachers sent by the headmasters of the city schools are conducted round the various sections of the museum by the respective curators. About nine or ten batches attend the demonstrations in the five sections of the museum every year. These teachers are thus enabled to get a clear idea of the exhibits, and when they bring their students, as a good number of them do, they are in a position to make the visit to the museum more useful and interesting to their young charges. In addition to this, advice and assistance, and sometimes duplicates of specimens are given to those schools eager to develop their own school museums.

The new Archaeological Gallery.

Museums and Basic Education

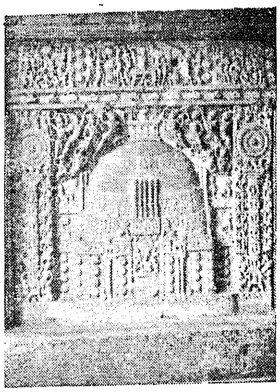
Even a layman who is not conversant with the problems of the educationist can easily appreciate the significance of some of the criticisms levelled against the bookishness of the present system of education. Cramming of theoretical facts unrelated to the children's experience and environment cramps the mind, making it a storehouse of odd facts and tit bits, instead of training it to be an instrument of intelligence and shaping it to be a mould for the formation of an integrated personality. The Wardha Scheme seeks to make education a concrete, effective and natural process correlated to and in multipronged contact with the pupil's own surroundings, minimising thereby the waste of mental energy and avoiding mental cramping. The principles underlying the Scheme are so sound that differences of opinion on details are of little significance.

In considering the Wardha syllabus from the point of view of a student of culture, one cannot but appreciate the success which the authors of the Scheme have achieved in their efforts to correlate education to life. In any community enjoying ordered and balanced life, the various aspects of its entire culture—economic, political and religious—should be properly integrated. In India today we are far from having such a well integrated social order; the presence amidst us of large numbers of misfits is the clearest proof of social *malaise*. In the important field of education, more than in any other sphere of our national life, the lack of integration has produced deplorable waste of energy and effort. Sociologists and educationists alike stress the need for correlating education with other activities of the community.

Where do museums come into this picture? A point which has not been considered by the sponsors of the Wardha Scheme is that its syllabuses to be effectively gone through require a very efficient museum service. The teacher under the Wardha Scheme would require a wide variety of materials and practical knowledge and experience to be pressed into his service. The Wardha syllabus in Social Studies include such topics as the "Story of Primitive Man," "Life of Man in Ancient Times," "Life of Man in Distant Lands" and detailed "Observation by the Pupils" of their own environment. The educational equipment required for the proper teaching of these topics will have to be made available to the teachers and unless this is done, teaching will tend to be merely wordy, as at present and in the past. I see no other way in which the needs of the teachers under the Wardha Scheme to teach a number of subjects can be met except through the development of effective educational service organised in a number of special museums in all the districts of the Province. A scheme for educational museums was considered by the Ministry of Education in Madras in 1939 but was given up for financial reasons.

The Illiterate Visitor

A very large percentage of the visitors to the Madras Museum are not literate and therefore not in a position to read and understand the descriptive accounts given in the labels of the exhibits in the museum galleries. The illiterate visitor derives a vague pleasure by walking through the galleries of the museum, and Surgeon Edward Balfour, the first officer in charge of the museum, in one of his earliest reports to the Governor-in-Council, told the Government that the pleasure which hundreds of happy visitors derived from their visit to the museum should be regarded as more than adequate return for the small sum that was spent annually on the museum. It is now felt that a visit to the museum should be made more profitable and useful to the illiterates. For this, two schemes are under consideration, the first being the appointment of guide lecturers who would take the visitors round the galleries and explain the exhibits to them, and the second, the installation of loud-speakers in the various galleries which will broadcast gramophone records of descriptions of the more important exhibits in Tamil and Telugu, as parties of visitors are taken along. The latter scheme has been tried on an experimental scale and the results have been found to be very satisfactory. When these schemes materialise, the museum will be able to play a very important role in adult education for the benefit of the illiterate sections of our community.



Chaitya slab from the inner rail of Amaravati stupa—An exhibit in the Gallery

Mr. S. F. Markham. a former president of the Museums Association of Great Britain, was of the opinion that the cultural level of a country could be measured by the level of museum development in it. Though this yardstick may not provide a correct standard, museums do give an idea, especially to foreigners, of what a country has achieved in the past and is accomplishing at present. The Government of India are getting ready the blueprints of a National Museum in New Delhi, and almost all the provinces and States have large plans for the development of their museums. The day is not far off when India will be having a number of first-rate museums of a standard commensurate with the status which, we hope, she will have in the world of the future.

INDIA'S RS. 125-CRORE EDUCATION SCHEMES

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SARGENT REPORT BEING IMPLEMENTED

A statement on the action taken or proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Sargent Report on post-war educational development in India was made in the Central Assembly on Monday by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Education, in reply to a question by Mr. Madandhari Singh.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari said: The Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on post-war educational development in India popularly called the Sargent Report was published in January 1944. In October 1945 the Government of India accepted generally the principles and the objects of the Report.

The decision of the Government of India was conveyed to the Provincial Governments and they were asked to prepare their educational development plans in the light of the main recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education. All the provincial Governments with the exception of that of the N.-W.F.P. have how prepared their first five-year programme of educational expansion. The Centrally Administered Areas and the Central Government have also prepared their five-year plans, which are complementary to the plans prepared by the provinces. This entire programme proposed involves a total expenditure of Rs. 125 crores approximately. The schemes are being examined by this Government with a view to according their final approval. Some of the plans received from the provincial Governments are still tentative, but their finalized plans are expected very shortly.

Provincial Schemes

The Provincial Governments have been requested to embark forthwith on schemes selected out of the five-year plans, which are of an urgent character. As far as education is concerned, schemes regarding higher technical education, the training of teachers and educational facilities for ex-servicemen received high priority. These schemes have been examined by the Government of India and those found suitable have been sanctioned for immediate execution.

In the first quinquennium a reasonable provision has been made in the provincial and Central plans towards the following essential requirements:

1. Universal compulsory and free basic (Primary and Middle) education for all boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14.

The provincial and Central schemes of basic education cater both for boys and girls except in Sind and the N.-W.F.P. whose plans have not yet been finalized. Bihar, Orissa, Madras, the U.P. and the Centrally Administered Areas have agreed to provide for compulsory basic (Primary and Middle) education in due course for the entire age-group of 6-14; the remaining provincial Governments have not made it clear if it is their objective to cater for the entire age-group 6-14 though they have made provision for the age-group 6-11 in the first instance. The rate of progress is mainly determined by the availability of trained teachers. The total expenditure proposed in the provincial plans on basic (Primary and Middle) education, including indirect expenditure on the training of teachers, inspection, school meals, amounts to Rs. 56.95 crores (Rs. 20.52 crores capital and Rs. 36.43 crores recurring) which is about 58 per cent of the total expenditure on provincial education schemes. The total expenditure on basic (Primary and Middle) education during the quinquennium in Central areas will approximate to Rs. 1.9 crores (capital Rs. 1.14 crores, recurring Rs. .79 crores).

Most provinces have also agreed that the education to be imparted at earlier stages would be through the medium of creative activities.

2. Technical and Commercial Education.

The Government of India have initiated a scheme in co-operation with the provincial Governments under which they are sending approximately 500 scholars each year abroad for higher technical training and scientific research. It would cost the Central Government approximately Rs. 3.60 crores over the five-year period. An All-India Council for Technical Education has already been set up to make a survey of the needs of the country as a whole and recommend ways and means to meet her urgent requirements. The provinces have made the following additional provisions in the five-year period:

1. Establishment of 160 new institutions (105 Junior Technical and vocational Schools, 35 Technical High Schools, 16 Polytechnics and four Engineering Colleges).

2. Expansion and reorganization of 32 Junior Technical Institutions, 12 Technical High Schools and 10 Engineering Colleges.

Schemes to Cost Rs. 7 Crores

The total capital expenditure for the above schemes will amount to Rs. 7.1 crores and the recurring expenditure in the five-year period will total to Rs. 4.43 crores and the ultimate recurring expenditure per year will be about Rs. 2.14 crores. While the Provincial plans propose generally to improve facilities for turning semi-skilled and skilled craftsmen, foremen and chargemen and some engineers, the training of high grade engineers and technologists, (designers, planners, research workers, production experts, etc.) to take up positions of trust and responsibility in industry will be provided by the two proposed Central Higher Technological Institutions each with an annual output of 1,000 engineers and technologists costing 3 crores in

(contd. in the next page.)

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION MOVEMENT IN CHINA

(Professor C. W. Chang)

THE Rural Reconstruction Movement is one of the several movements of momentous importance that have gained ground in China during the last two or three decades.

This scheme is closely related to the daily life of the people. Its work is begun with a survey, which finds out the real needs of the community; based on the needs, a plan of improvement work is made, which includes Agricultural improvement, Public Health, Rural Industry, Education and Citizenship training. The scheme not only works with the people for the people but is also run by the people themselves. It works from the bottom up, instead of working from the top down, as many other movements do.

The Pioneer

Before the war with Japan in 1937, the movement had already been a nation-wide one, and more than 250 organisations were directly concerned with it. We shall take Ching-Ping Hsien, Honon, as an illustration of the work of the movement. Cheng Ping, at a time, was not safe to live in, because of bandit trouble following civil wars. Mr. Pang Yu-ting, a native of the district who returned to his home-

(Continued on next page)

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capital and 46 crores annually in recurring expenditure. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Delhi Polytechnic will also be strengthened considerably. These four institutions together with other provincial colleges will ensure an annual output of about 4,000 engineers and technologists in the quinquennium. It is also proposed to set up a Technical Teachers' Training College to train teachers for Technical High Schools and Senior Technical Institutions. The Central schemes are expected to cost about Rs. 8.48 crores in capital and Rs. 2.96 crores total recurring expenditure over five years and with an ultimate recurring expenditure of Rs. 1.06 crores per year.

The Provincial and Central schemes for five-year period on technical education will involve an expenditure of about Rs. 23 crores (capital Rs. 16 crores and recurring Rs. 7 crores.)

Adult Education

The expenditure proposed by Provincial Governments on Adult Education in the first quinquennium is Rs. 2.10 crores which is about 2.2 per cent of the total expenditure on all provincial education schemes.

University Education and Research

It is proposed to spend approximately Rs. 2.54 crores on the three Universities (Delhi, Rs. 1.14 crores. Aligarh Rs. 70 lakhs and Benares Rs. 70 lakhs) during the quinquennium to strengthen the Universities and bring them up to the standard prevalent in other educationally advanced countries. Benares and Aligarh Universities will be assisted to set up a Medical College each up to the degree standard. Provincial Governments in their development plans have made some provision for strengthening the Provincial Universities. They propose to spend approximately Rs. 5.24 crores in the next quinquennium.

Institute of Science

The National Institute of Sciences will advise the Government of India on all scientific matters. It is also contemplated to give substantial grant-in-aid to all-India research Institutes which are in a position to promote higher scientific research and it is proposed to spend about Rs. 75 lakhs for promotion of scientific research in educational institutions in the quinquennium.

Other Educational Schemes

The five-year plans also include a reasonable provision for strengthening secondary education with a view to meeting the requirements of professional and technical colleges, for the training of teachers and for the improvement of the health of the school child. Special attention has been paid to women's education to make up for the present deficiency.

Training College

The Department of Education of the Government of India have also prepared a number of schemes which have been approved by the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet. It is proposed to start a post-graduate training college for men and women, a training college for physical education and to re-organize the present Lady Irwin College for Domestic Science, by next year in Delhi. A grant has been paid to Visva-Bharati for training of teachers on the lines recommended by the Board and a grant is being paid for the same purpose to Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, where a scheme for training of teachers has already started. A proposal for re-organizing the Marris College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow, on an all-India basis is also under consideration in the Department of Education.

PRICE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

Comparative figures of wholesale prices for this year and the last prepared by the Economic Advisor's Office, New Delhi, are brought together in the table below:—

Groups.		Sept. '45	Aug. '45	Sept. 46
1		2	3	4
Fibres	..	214.5	219.1	256.4
Oilseeds	..	282.7	289.6	378.7
Minerals	..	217.3	219.6	233.3
Miscellaneous	..	284.7	280.5	376.9
Combined :	..	237.7	242.4	293.3

Groups.		August 1946.	Increase as compared with August 1946.	Increase (latest month) as compared with Sept. '45.
		5	6	7
Fibres	..	262.3	—5.9	+41.9
Oilseeds	..	380.5	—1.8	+96
Minerals	..	232.6	+0.7	+16
Miscellaneous	..	364.7	+12.2	+92.2
Combined :	..	297	—3.7	+55.6

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX IN RANGOON

The table below shows the percentage variations in the estimated cost, on an austerity basis, of one month's supply of essential foodstuffs and commodities for the principal groups of Indian workpeople, *viz.*, Tamils, Telugu and Oriyas, on a single-man basis. The average cost of the same items in 1941 has been represented by the base figure of 100.

MONTHS		GROUPS Food	Fuel and lighting
November, 1945	..	545	261
December, 1945	..	654	253
January, 1946	..	542	221
February, 1946	..	474	203
March, 1946	..	388	194
April, 1946	..	382	228
May, 1946	..	409	243
June, 1946	..	430	194
July, 1946	..	426	184

MONTHS		GROUPS Clothing	Miscellaneous.	All items combd.
November, 1945	..	2,782	410	656
December, 1945	..	2,764	421	744
January, 1946	..	1,702	455	581
February, 1946	..	605	455	426
March, 1946	..	327	440	369
April, 1946	..	327	440	368
May, 1946	..	327	429	389
June, 1946	..	327	425	400
July, 1946	..	327	442	397

(Contd. from the previous page.)

village in 1929, after service with the north-western army, settled in the village, organisėd the local people for self-defence and soon succeeded in wiping out the bandit trouble. The work of self-government which started thus, soon included such items as taking population census, land registration, social welfare work, country policing, etc. All these were done with funds, raised entirely from local sources. This experiment enjoyed a nation-wide reputation and many from all over the country came to study it. In the spring of 1933, Yu-Ting was shot by the reactionaries; but the work he began had taken root. After the war, this place was selected by the Government, a centre of operation for the promotion of rural industrial co-operatives and relief-work.

Numerous such centres have since been started. The most notable is the National Council for Rural Reconstruction. The Council worked in full co-operation with the Provincial Government. It nominated a professor from one of the institutions affiliated to it, as magistrate of the district. The Magistrate appointed his staff members for the different offices of the Government, on the recommendation of the various participating institutions. This set-up was intended to be the beginning of the "University Community Concept Idea". The idea was to select a place typical of the country for the rural reconstruction, as the Council's field centre, where the participating institutions would make their distinctive contributions and work together, through one set of Government machinery, in a controlled environment. The work was however impeded by the outbreak of the war.

The New Scheme

According to the new scheme which the Government, in 1940, decided to inaugurate, each hsien will be divided into a number of hsiang and cheng (market town), each hsiang or cheng into a number of bao. Each bao consists of ten chia, and each chia ten families. There is to be a people's foundation school in every bao and a community centre school in every hsiang or cheng. The latter is to give supervision to the former. The principal of the school may concurrently act as the head of the community for civil and military affairs.

The most difficult obstacle in the way of this scheme is not the lack of funds but the shortage of men sufficiently trained in and devoted to this task. It is not enough to have one good magistrate; he must have an ideal team to work with.

(Abridged from "The Asiatic Review")

OUR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

BOROBUDUR: JAVA

In Java, on the right bank of river Praga, there stands on the butt of a volcanic rock, a huge Buddhist shrine—Chandi Borobudur. And what a magnificent shrine it is! Measuring 400 feet at the basement and 154 feet in height, it towers, like a Brobdignagian among a gathering of Gullivers, high above all other monuments in Java.

Not only is the structure mighty, but the walls are so richly carved that there is nothing to excel Chandi Borobudur among the sculptural splendours of Asia. The Sculpture gallery extends to over a mile and since there are carvings on both faces of the gallery, on the whole the bas-reliefs measure about 3 miles.

Built nearly 12 centuries ago, covered with the overgrowth of vegetation and tons of lava for the last many hundreds of years till they were excavated and brought into light sometime back by an enthusiastic band of Dutch scholars, these works of art to-day look almost as perfect as when they were built.

Many of the bas-reliefs deal with the different scenes from the life of Buddha. One striking thing about the biographical sculptures is their close resemblance to similar works which cover the face of India from Gandhara to Amaravati. Historians and archaeologists are of opinion that the same hands that carved the caves of Ajanta must have been responsible for the exquisite performances on the walls of Borobudur. The style is the same, the motif is the same, the manner of execution is also the same. It is now clearly established that no great time interval could have elapsed between the execution of the work in Ajanta and that in Java. The physiognomy of the figures of the entire bas-reliefs is typically Indian and not Javanese, and in the words of an author, "characteristically Indian in body as well as in spirit."

Indeed there is nothing surprising that the greatest monument of Java is the handicraft of Indian genius. Far back in history at the early dawn of the Christian era, wave after wave of colonists from South India used to inundate the islands scattered ever the Indian Ocean. One such island was Java. For a thousand years regular batches from India spread over Java and overwhelmed it with their culture and civilization to such an extent, as to completely obliterate all arts and crafts of the natives who were of the Malaya-Polynesian race. There is a reference to this island in the Ramayana as an enchanting land of corn and full of gold mines. Ptolemy the Greek geographer (about 130 A.D.) calls this island "Jabadieu, the isle of barley" which suggests that this island had already acquired fame in the 2nd century A.D. by its Hindu name, thereby presupposing Hindu migration. Some places have still Hindu names such as Madura, Sukhabhumi, Sarayu, Basuki, etc.

The Ramayana and the Mahabaratha had already reached this island at a very early time and known as Kakawin and Bharat-Yuddha these serve as themes for shadow and puppet shows even today, so much so that the native believes that the incidents in these epic plays actually took place in Java. Incidentally it may be noted that similar shadow and puppet plays are very popular in South India. Fa Hian, the Chinese pilgrim on his return voyage home from India was shipwrecked on an island which he calls "Ye-poti" and which scholars believe may be either Sumatra or Java. He mentions in his chronicle that the law of the Buddha was not much known there and that he saw Brahmins flourishing. Hence it is surmised that the religion of the Javanese has been Brahminism till the 8th century A.D. It is said that Buddhism was introduced into this island by Gunavarman, a prince of Kashmir in A.D. 423; however, this religion does not seem to have made headway for a long time.

The Indian colonists that settled in Java seem to have come from various parts of India though not all of them at the same time. One batch is believed to have migrated from Gujarat in A.D. 78 led by one Aji Saka. But the greater part of the exodus seems to have been only from the eastern coast of India from between the banks of the Mahanadi and the Godavari and from Orissa and Kalinga. It is therefore not surprising that to-day in the parlance of the Javanese Orang Keling means a man of India. Chinese records of the T'ng dynasty mention a kingdom of the name of Kalinga in Central Java.

It is supposed that the culture of Java between the 4th and the 12th centuries has been more or less the culture of South India. Saivism has been the main religion though Vishnu has been worshipped from very early times, the cult of Harihara having been very popular. Though contact with Mother India had begun already in the 1st century B.C. actual vestiges of Indian culture can be dated only from the 5th century A.D. The Tamil poem Manimekalai, ascribed to the period between the 5th and the 7th centuries A.D., refers to the names of two kings who reigned at Nagapura which is believed to have been a capital of West Java. Central and Eastern Java contain most of the records and monuments that speak of the ancient glory of this island. The earliest inscription in Pallava grantha dated 732 A.D. refers to one Sanjaya who was ruler of Central Java. It says that the first Saiva temple was constructed by a Brahmin clan of the Agastya Gotra whose model was a copy of the one in Kunjarakunja, a sacred site in Southern India on the banks of the Thungabhadra. There is another version that maintains that Agastya himself had been in Central Java and had a temple for Siva built there. It cannot be forgotten that Agastya is the genius of Javanese culture and under the name of Siva Guru or Bhatara Guru enjoys precedence over the Tirumurtis as a divine being.

That immigration from Southern India has been a continuous affair spread over a long period admits of no doubt. And in the Chola period benefactions have been received to a Buddhist vihara at Negapatam from Java or Sumatra. Likewise endowments have also been received from Javanese princes to

the monastery at Nalanda in the 9th century A.D. One source affirms that Javanese princes used to be sent to India for their education.

Buddhism is said to have spread into Java when it was conquered in the 8th century A.D. by the great Sailendra dynasty from the neighbouring island of Sumatra. They were ardent Buddhists and exercised considerable influence over a large part of Malaya, Java and Sunda islands for several centuries. They held sway over Java for about a century and most of the Buddhist monuments of Java belong to this period. The court religion seems to have been Buddhism while Saivism was the popular faith.

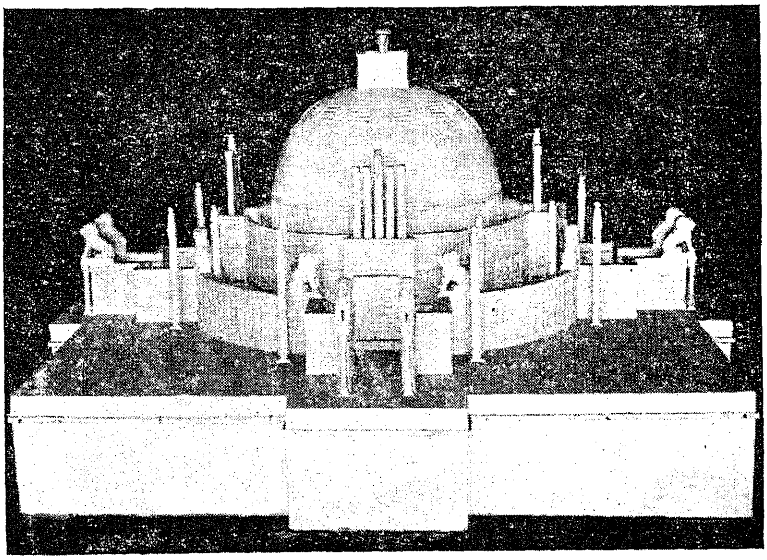
From the 7th century to the end of the 15th century this island was adorned with edifices of exquisite beauty and when Muslims appeared and spread their religion the building of monuments came to a stop and the existing ones were neglected. It is believed that conversion into Mohamadanism was a very peaceful affair and this saved most of the monuments from destruction at the hands of the new converts.

Indian genius and wisdom flourished in Java for a number of centuries, but it did not synthesize with the native culture to evolve something new. To-day, one looking upon the cupolas of Borobudur feels that it was a monument to the Gods of an alien land, planted there by aliens who remaimed aliens to the thought and culture of the country of their adoption until the day of their disappearance. Local pride classifies it as one of the wonders of the world.

Perhaps in a way it is.

S. SWAMINATHAN.

Rama—In shadow play



Amaravati stupa

WHEAT AND MAIZE COMBINATIONS

1. CONJEE

Ingredients		South Indian Measure	Standard Measure
Wheat Ravai	..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Maize Ravai	..	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Water	..	3 Ollocks	2½ Cups
Salt	..	1½ Teaspoon	1½ Teaspoon

METHOD :

1. Boil water.
2. Add wheat ravai and stir for about 5 minutes.
3. Then add the maize ravai and salt and keep on stirring. Cook for 45 minutes. Remove from fire.
4. Serve hot.

2. UPPUMA

Ingredients		S. I. Measure	Standard Measure
Maize Ravai	..	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Wheat ravai	..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Black gram	..	½ Ollock	½ Teaspoon
Mustard seeds	..	¼ Teaspoon	¼ Teaspoon
Curry leaves	..	A few	A few
Onion	..	One	One
Green chillies	..	One	One
Ginger	..	A piece	A piece
Salt	..	½ Teaspoon	½ Teaspoon
Dalda	..	2 Teaspoon	2 Teaspoon
Water	..	1¼ Ollocks	1 1/7 Cups

METHOD :

1. Chop green chillies, onions, ginger, and curry leaves fine.
2. Heat the frying pan adding the oil. When it is hot add the mustard, black gram, green chillies etc. Stir until brown.
3. Add the water, bring to boil and add salt and wheat, ravai stirring constatly.
4. After 2 or 3 minutes add the maize ravai and stir till most of the water gets absorbed.
5. Remove from fire and serve hot.

3. DHOSAI (A).

Ingredients		S. I. Measure	Standard Measure
Wheat flour	..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Maize flour	..	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Water	..	¾ Ollocks &	2/3 Cup (approx.)
Salt	..	1 teaspoon	1 Teaspoon

METHOD :

1. Mix all ingredients.
2. Make dhosai. Fry on flat iron pan.

4. DHOSAI (B).

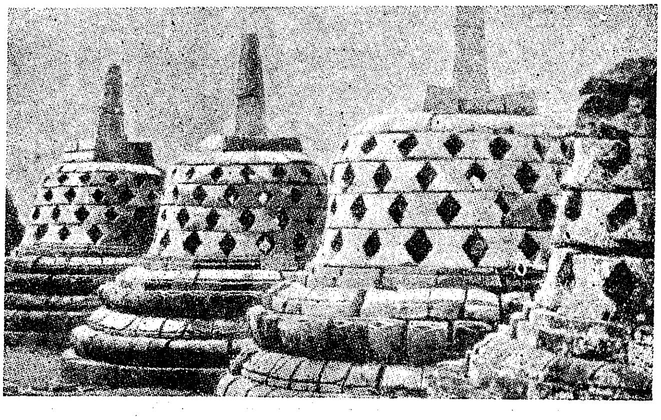
Ingredients			
Black gram-dhall		¼ Ollock	1¾ Oz.
Wheat flour	..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Maize flour	..	¼ Ollock.	1 Oz.
Salt	..	1½ Teaspoon	1½ Teaspoon
Water	..	¾ Ollock	2/3 Cup (approx.)

METHOD :

1. Soak the black gram for 4-6 hours and grind well.
2. Mix it with other ingredients and leave it to sour overnight.
3. In the morning make dhosai. Fry on flat iron pan.

(Continued from page 4.)

weaver had become extinct through sheer neglect and lack of encouragement. The exuberant sympathy for and championship of the handloom weaver so freely exhibited now by the opponents of khadi has all the appearance of a crocodile shedding tears for its intended victim. Any expansion of or encouragement to the handloom industry in the real sense of the term is impracticable simultaneously with the expansion or encouragement of the mill industry. This is the hard and irresistible logic of recent developments in the textile industry. The oppositionists at the Textile Protection Conference have unconsciously refuted their own thesis out of their own mouths.



Dagobas—These are a prominent feature of Buddhist shrines

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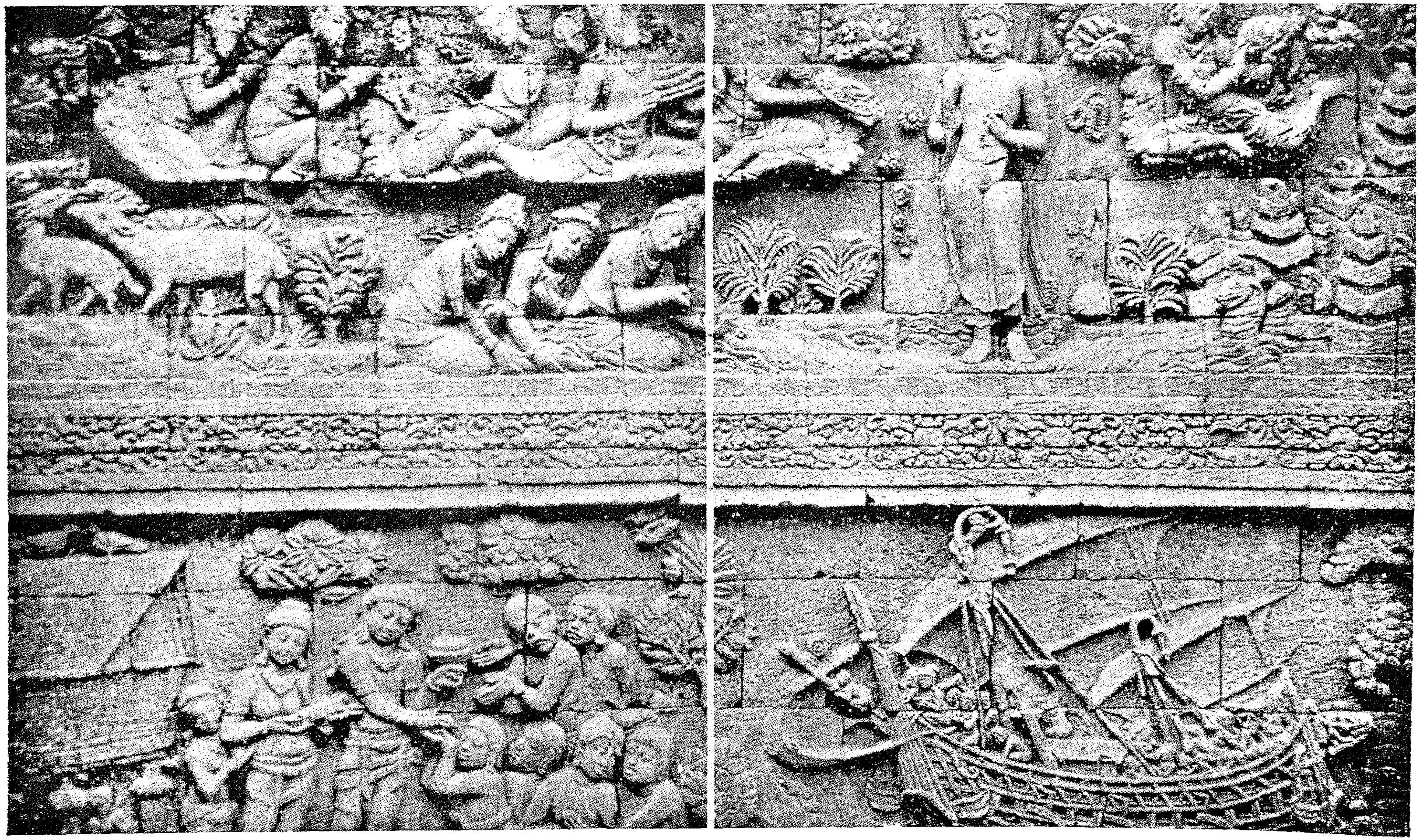

Bas-reliefs on the sculptural gallery of Chandi Borabudur

Note the Indian features and the ship. Probably this was the type of vessel used by the Indian seafarers.

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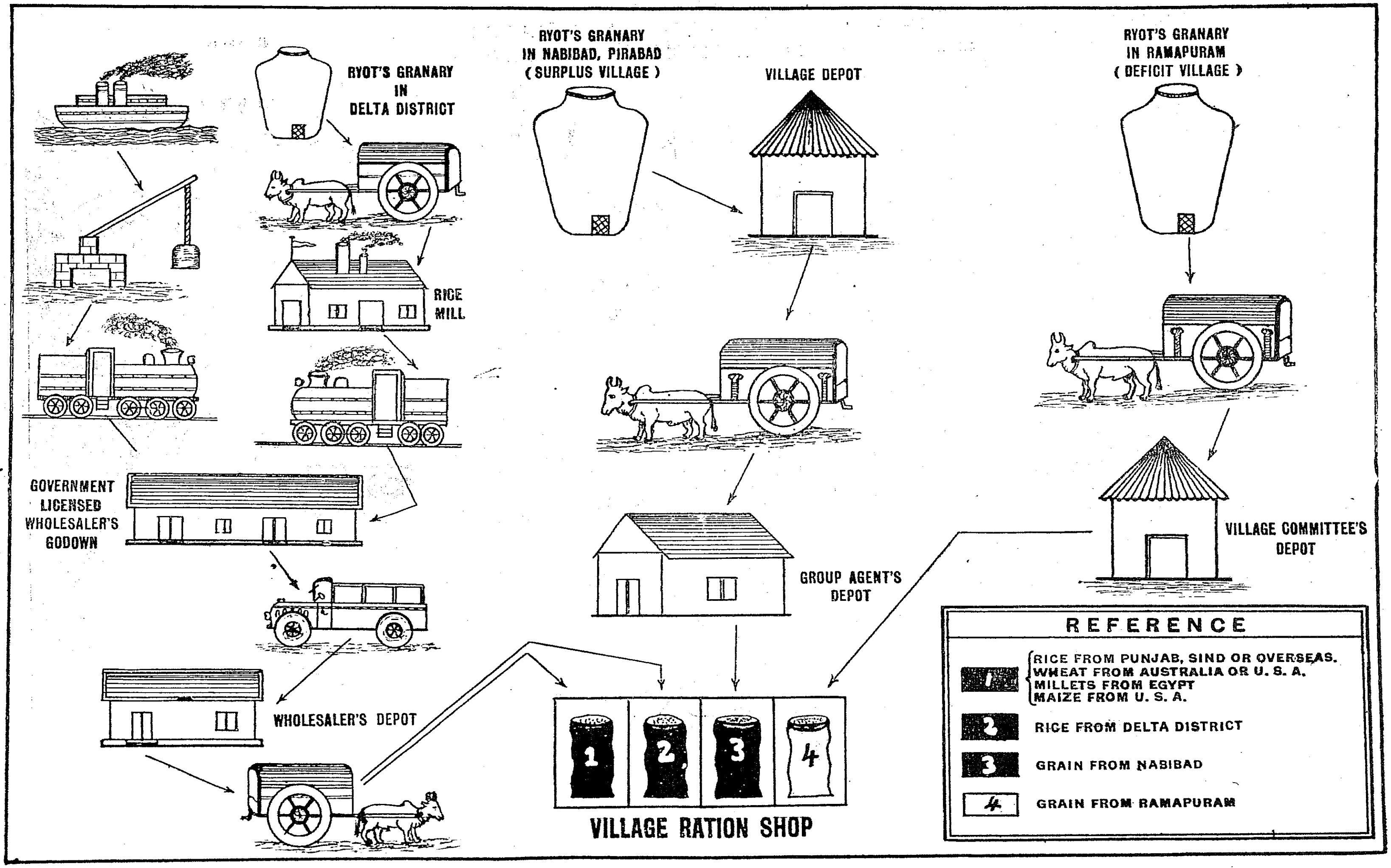
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